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Celebrity Buzz

Hugs, smiles all around

pg 34

Movies

Wonderland wonderful but shallow

pg 21

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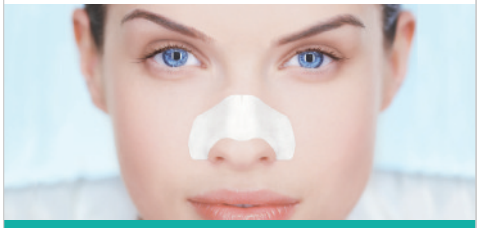

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Oscars **And the winner is ...**

BIGELOW: FRAZER HARRISON/CAMERON & REITMAN: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/TARANTINO: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Contenders for Best Picture at the 82nd Academy Awards on Sunday include, clockwise from top left, Kathryn Bigelow's The Hurt Locker, James Cameron's Avatar, Jason Reitman's Up In The Air and Quentin Tarantino's Inglourious Basterds. Bigelow, who was once married to Cameron, could become the first female director to win an Academy Award. Coverage, page 20.

News on the Move

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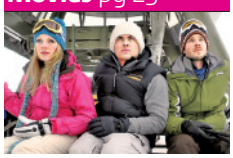
Movies pg 23



Frozen on the ski lift

International

Women's Day

What's with the string? Find out Monday in Metro.

On the web
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Feds slot $17M more a year for Olympians

BUDGET In a section of the federal budget speech titled Going for Gold, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said on Thursday that Canada's elite summer and winter athletes will receive an extra $17 million a year for the next two years.

That's on top of the $47 million the government already spends each year to fund their programs.

Own the Podium, which helps fund winter Olympians, will see its core annual federal funding doubled to $22 million.

Road to Excellence, which supports summer athletes, will see another $6 million annually tacked on to its current federal contribution of $36 million as it readies for the London 2012 Games.

"Let us savour the achievements of our Canadian Olympic champions," Flaherty said. "(And) look forward to the achievements of our Paralympic champions in the days to come."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paying it later

Tough decisions delayed in Conservative federal budget

Federal **Budget**

Hard decisions on wrestling a monstrous deficit have been punted one year down the road by a Conservative budget that promises dramatic future cuts but leaves the punishing ground game for later.

"We can see our destination on the horizon," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty told the House of Commons on Thursday, conjuring images of a future flat line.

Total federal spending in 2010-11 will hit $280.5 billion — up almost $13 billion over the fiscal year that ends March 31. Program spending is projected to plunge almost $8 billion in 2011-12 before rebounding slightly the following year.

A deficit of $53.8 billion is forecast for this year.

"Listen, this is a very tough budget," Flaherty insisted during a budget lockup news conference prior to his speech. "Some very difficult decisions have been made. Most of the answers to requests for funding were 'no.'"

Next year will also see a projected massive deficit of $49.2 billion but the shortfalls are expected to plunge dramatically after that, falling to a modest $1.8 billion in 2014-15. But by then, the total federal debt is projected to hit $622 billion — up $136 billion from the $486 billion on the books when Prime Minister Stephen Harper took power in 2006.

Independent analysts were unusually cautious in their assessment of the budget on Thursday.

"It's hard to give this budget a grade now because you can't really grade it until you see if they can actually do it," said Kevin Dancey, president of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and a former senior Finance Department bureaucrat.

"They're still trying to be all things to all people," said Kevin Gaudet of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Some analysts say the government will have a tough time finding savings because of ongoing corporate tax cuts, no tax increases and vows not to touch government transfers to provinces, pensions, health care or Defence spending.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 8

Budget highlights

- Basic personal income-tax exemption (the amount you can earn before paying any taxes) for 2010 rises to $10,382.
- $3.2 billion in personal income-tax relief, largely through raising the basic personal tax exemption and higher child benefits for parents.
- $7.7 billion in stimulus money for infrastructure.
- $4 billion for extra EI benefits and training.
- Freeze on EI premium rate (paid by workers and employers) until the end of 2010. Rate will likely rise in 2011.

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Afghan vet to carry Paralympic torch

PARALYMPIC 2010 Games

RELAY Capt. Trevor Greene, who was severely injured when he was struck in the head by an axe while serving in Afghanistan, will carry the Paralympic torch Saturday in Victoria, cknw.com reports.

Greene, a Vancouver journalist who has written a book about the missing women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, was serving in Afghanistan in March of 2006.

During a meeting with village elders, Greene, who had taken off his helmet as a sign of respect, was struck from behind with an axe. The attack nearly killed him and left him with a severe brain injury.

A film about his rehabilitation won a Gemini Award for best documentary.

METRO VANCOUVER

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Families of slain soldiers get the rare chance to mourn their loved ones where they were lost, in Afghanistan, at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Find out how Thursday's 'stay-the-course' federal budget affects you at **metronews.ca/canada**

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KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A cyclist rides along the Dunsmuir Viaduct's new bike lane on Thursday.

Bike lane added to Dunsmuir Viaduct

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

"I think the Olympics showed us that you don't need as much space on roads for cars as people (thought) we did."
Coun. Heather Deal

CYCLING The City of Vancouver has given cyclists another safe route into downtown by adding a bike lane to the Dunsmuir Viaduct, which reopened yesterday after being closed for the Olympics.

"It's something that made sense," said Coun. Heather Deal. "We already had the lane blocked off (to accommodate a construction project), and we ... desperately needed a safe blocked-off bike lane downtown from the east."

The route links the Adanac bike route from East Vancouver to Dunsmuir and Beatty streets downtown.

The project hasn't been as controversial as the one put up on the Burrard Street Bridge in July, and Deal said that's probably because people now realize how easy it is to adjust to one fewer lane.

"I think the Olympics showed us that you don't need as much space on roads for cars as people (thought) we did," she said.

"We had summertime (cycling) rates on the bridges (during the Games). This is a great legacy of the Olympics."

Deal said the next project is to create a better cycling route linking the Burrard Street and Dunsmuir Viaduct bike lanes.

"Right now that's the missing piece," she said. "Otherwise you're (riding) between a bus and a car."

Olympics spur huge increases in spending

TRANSACTIONS Vancouver and Whistler retailers got a big boost from the Olympics, with sales up 48 per cent over the same period last year.

Bars and pubs benefited with a 130 per cent increase, while souvenir sales almost quadrupled with a 373 per cent boost. Clothing sales doubled.

Most of the spending was done by Canadians, but 22 per cent was by international visitors. The biggest international spenders were from China, spending an average of $423 per transaction.

Gold-medal achievements sparked the biggest spending days. After Canada's first gold medal, spending rose 117 per cent. The exception was winning hockey gold on the final day of the Games. Sales dropped 41 per cent compared to previous Olympic days.

The data was compiled by credit card and debit-processing company Moneris Solutions.

METRO VANCOUVER

Council OK's curbside composting

Fruit, vegetable scraps to be collected starting in April

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Vancouverites will soon be able to toss their potato peelings and apple cores in with their lawn clippings as the city Thursday gave a green thumbs-up to curbside composting.

Phase 1 of the program begins Earth Day, April 22, and aims to divert 6,100 tonnes of fruit and vegetable scraps annually from the Vancouver Landfill.

It excludes people who live in apartments or condominiums and businesses with private garbage pickup.

Single-family dwellings will be able to add raw fruit and vegetable scraps into their yard trimmings bin that is collected every two weeks.

A communication plan for the program will cost $230,000.

NPA Coun. Suzanne Anton, who campaigned on composting during her first term four years ago, said curbside composting is something that the city has wanted to do for a long time, but it lacked the composting facilities at a regional level.

That, however, changed last summer when Metro Vancouver signed a 10-year deal with a food-waste and yard-trimming facility in Richmond.

Council's decision also paves the way to vastly expand curbside composting. A report due before the end of July will detail plans to compost all single-family food waste, which would divert an additional 9,600 tonnes.

Phase 2, which begins early 2011, will see residential garbage picked up every two weeks, while foodstuffs, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings will be picked up weekly.

Additional funds

- Vancouver also committed $240,000 to subsidize backyard composters and to coordinate neighbourhood-scale pilot projects.

News in brief

BANNERS Housing activists in Vancouver wrapped 520 metres of red banners around the block surrounding the Canada Pavilion on West Georgia and Beatty streets. They claim the wrap set a world record for longest banner wrap.

ENVIRONMENT B.C.'s NDP said cuts to environmental monitoring prevented officials from conducting followup tests at a Prince George Park after air-quality testing detected formaldehyde levels 20 times the provincial maximum.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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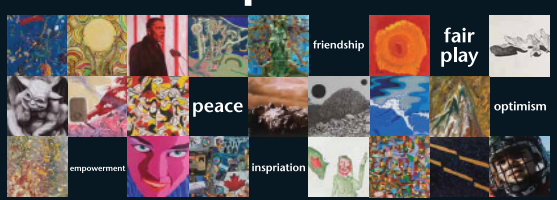

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Bikes roll back onto the SkyTrain
Bicycles are allowed on the SkyTrain again, TransLink announced on Thursday. They were banned during the Olympics to help accommodate the large crowds taking transit. METRO VANCOUVER

Cypress reopens Tuesday

GREG DOWNS
for Metro Vancouver

Cypress Mountain has enough snow to welcome back recreational skiers and snowboarders on Tuesday.

Ten runs, three lifts and the Nordic areas will open to the public first.

The resort, which closed in January, had to have snow trucked in from the Callaghan Valley to host freestyle skiing and snowboarding during the Olympics after an unusually warm winter.

"We've had a lot of negative press back before the Games, but there's actually some pretty good skiing on the upper slopes," said Cypress snow school director Kent Rideout. "At mid mountain there's over three metres of snow."

Black Mountain, where the Olympic events took place, will remain closed as crews continue working to ready it for the public. Rideout said there's "a chance" it'll open before the season ends.

"There is a possibility, a week or so after opening, that we may be able to open a run or two on the other side, because the run that was used for the parallel giant slalom is in really good shape," he said, adding it'll depend on whether VANOC can move some of their equipment.

This would give people a chance to tackle the same runs that golden athletes, such as Jasey Jay Anderson, rode to victory.

The resort will operate under new hours, with runs open between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

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Police await toxicology report on dead teens

INVESTIGATION It could be several weeks before investigators determine why two teenage friends died suddenly within hours of each other early Tuesday.

Investigators have not released the identity of the girls, but a Facebook memorial site identifies them as Martha Jackson Hernandez, 17, from Richmond and Kayla LaLonde, 16, from Vancouver.

LaLonde was found collapsed outside a home on Rumble Street in Burnaby just after midnight. Hernandez was found in her home.

Friends said they had been together a few hours before they were found dead.

It's possible that alcohol and drugs may be a contributing factor in their deaths, but police say it will take a few weeks before toxicology results come back.

METRO VANCOUVER

FACEBOOK
Martha Jackson Hernandez, left, and Kayla LaLonde.

Claims down during Games

INSURANCE Fewer insurance claims were recorded during the Olympics, which ICBC is attributing to more people taking transit.

"Our preliminary numbers indicate there were approximately 20 per cent fewer claims reported during the 2010 Winter Games than the same time period in 2009," said Ash Megalli, 2010 claims services manager at ICBC.

A plan was put in place to handle a projected increase during the Games, but it was unnecessary because more people left their cars at home.

"The level of co-operation by residents alone was remarkable — from those who live and work downtown ... to all the residents that left their cars at home." STIG NIELSEN/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

COURT A new chief judge has been appointed for British Columbia. Thomas James Crabtree, currently a judge in the South Fraser district, assumes his new duties on April 8.

MISSING Investigators are still looking for clues on the disappearance of a 53-year-old Vancouver-area man who went missing one year ago this Friday. RCMP are asking the public for any information related to Wesley Foulds, who failed to return home from a doctor's appointment in Burnaby. His red 2007 Dodge Ram pickup was found in a parking lot north of Mission.

ASSAULT An 18-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by five men while walking home through a Surrey park near 154 Street and 18th Avenue. Police say one of the men has a muscular build and a tattoo on the back of his right hand.

CRIME A 22-year-old Chilliwack woman appeared in court Thursday after a violent purse snatching sent a 26-year-old woman to hospital with serious head injuries on March 1. Vanessa Robin Skerratt is facing aggravated assault charges.

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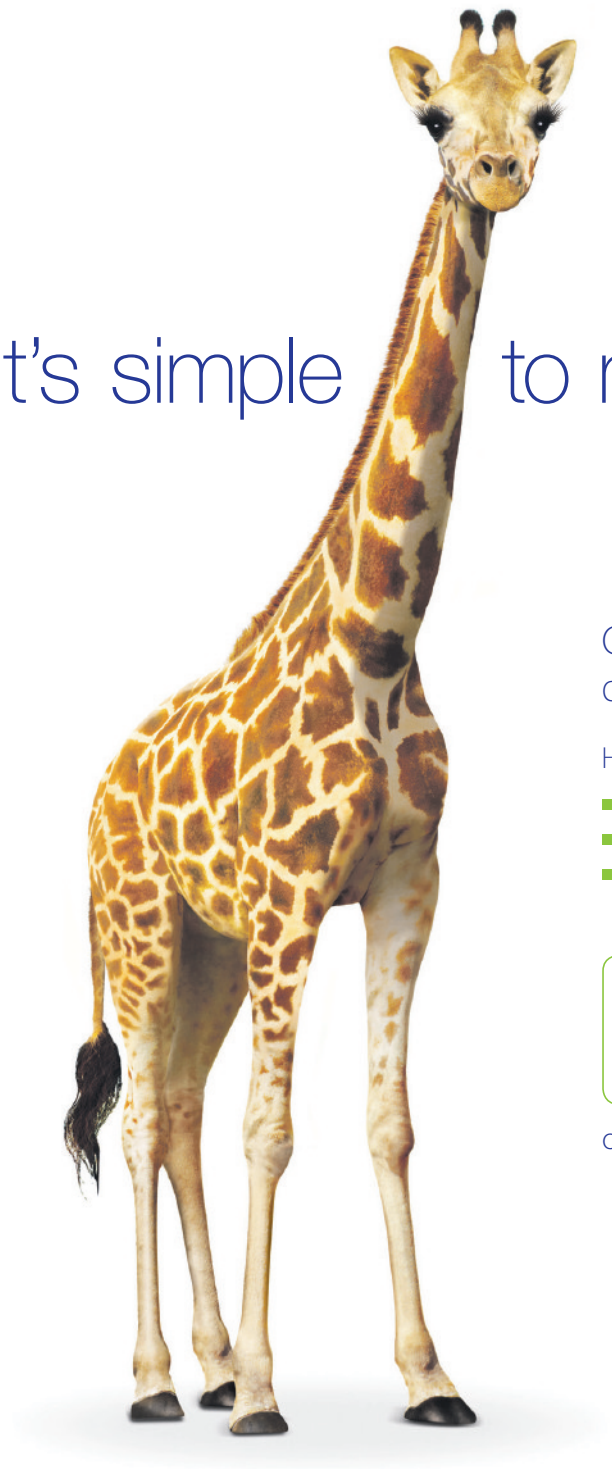

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Man gets 9 yrs for fraud

A former financial adviser from Victoria who pleaded guilty to ripping off millions of dollars from friends, family and others has been sentenced to nine years in jail.

The sentence is two years longer than the joint recommendation made to the judge by Ian Thow's lawyer and the Crown.

Justice Jocelyn Palmer concluded Thow's fraud was motivated by simple greed, created to give himself a lavish lifestyle.

Thow will only have to serve seven years in prison because he gets two years' credit for the time he has already served.

On Monday, he pleaded guilty to 20 fraud charges for cheating investors of about $10 million.

Thow persuaded investors to put their money into non-existent securities and plowed the money into his own bank accounts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teen's case treated as homicide

MISSING Investigators are officially treating the case of missing Squamish teenager Jodi Henrickson as a homicide, RCMP has announced.

Henrickson, 17, disappeared on Bowen Island on June 20 while partying with friends.

Police are now returning to the island "in an attempt to renew interest in determining the whereabouts of Jodi," said RCMP Cpl. Dave Ritchie.

"Police believe that there are parties on Bowen Island who may have information and be able to assist in this investigation, and are unwilling or hesitant to come forward." METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

AVALANCHES A growing avalanche threat across most of B.C. has prompted the Canadian Avalanche Centre to issue its third special slide warning in as many weeks, something it calls unprecedented. Four men have died in avalanches in B.C. since the beginning of the year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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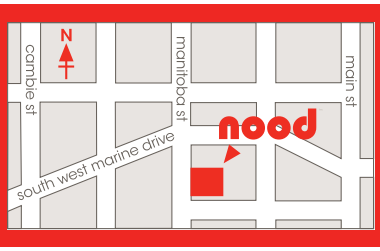

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Kenny sparks a mystery in gay rights furor

Immigration minister Jason Kenney says he takes "full responsibility" for a citizenship study guide that had all references to gay rights removed. But his Commons statement shed no light on who ordered the material cut from the document. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Getting it off their chests

The Quebec Women's Federation is upset by a contest organized by a strip club. The women want the Quebec City bar to cancel the promotion for free breast implant surgery, worth up to $7,000.The bar owner wants to attract female clients on Sundays. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rochette's sad farewell

GRIEF Olympic hero Joannie Rochette placed a medal on her mother's casket and bade farewell Thursday to the woman she called her best friend.

Rochette placed her figure-skating bronze on the coffin during the funeral for Thérèse Rochette in Berthierville, Que.

The athlete who melted hearts around the world by delivering the medal-winning performance in Vancouver amid her grief struggled through this painful final step.

Her eyes filled with tears as she paused several times to keep her composure while delivering a eulogy.

"She taught me how to be brave, she was always there for me," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joannie Rochette grieves over her mother's coffin.

The budget losers

Federal **Budget**

Budget Day may have been thumbs-up for Stephen Harper and Jim Flaherty, but it was thumbs-down for four of their files.

The environment, arts, poverty and international initiatives got short shrift in Thursday's budget.

- **Environment:** Watchdog Équiterre's Stephen Guilbeault is crying false advertising.

Although Wednesday's throne speech boasted a commitment to climate change, there are few budget measures directly related to it.

"Climate change is mentioned three times in the throne speech," said Guilbeault. "Nowhere is that commitment mentioned in the budget."

Guilbeault added: "I thought last year we'd hit rock bottom. I think I was wrong."

- **International:** A Harper promise to focus international aid efforts on maternal and child health is not matched with aid funding.
- **Arts:** There is not a single mention of the arts in either the throne speech or the budget.

TV networks who might have hoped for help with next year's transition to digital broadcasts might have to wait until the federal regulator finishes a series of studies.

- **Poverty:** There are few measures to help the poor.

Single working parents will get a tax break that allows them to keep more of the $100 cheque they receive every month for each child under six.

There is also an easing of the rules on charities, although it is unclear if that will mean more money for those in need.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife

Brian Burke reflects on what hockey's massive Olympics success will mean in the U.S. Scan this code for the story.

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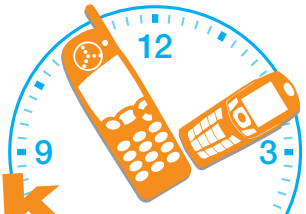

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Top court clips Angels' wings

The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear a constitutional challenge from two former Hells Angels.

Steven Lindsay and Raymond Bonner were the first people convicted under Parliament's 2002 anti-gang law.

The Ontario Court of Appeal last year dismissed the challenge, upholding the convictions for committing extortion "in association with" a criminal organization.

The former bikers had sought leave to appeal that decision to the Supreme Court, but the country's top court Thursday dismissed that application.

At the pair's trial in Barrie, Ont., in 2005, the Superior Court judge declared the Hells Angels a criminal organization for the first time in Canada.

The anti-gang legislation the men were challenging allows courts to impose up to 14 additional years in prison to anyone who commits a serious crime "for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a criminal organization."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boy safe after hostage taking

FEAR A 13-year-old boy huddled alone in an office, furtively talking to his mom on the phone as police tried to reason with a former student who was holding a secretary at knifepoint at a Calgary school Thursday.

The boy was freed two hours later after police convinced the 25-year-old man to let the woman go.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ADDICTION A family is suing Loto-Québec for $1 million after a man with a gambling problem committed suicide, CBC News Online reports. Jules Grenier, 74, hanged himself under a bridge in 2008 after a week-long gambling spree that cost him $6,000. Grenier lost an estimated $500,000 between 1999 and 2008. His wife and son blame Loto-Québec for encouraging his gambling by providing him with a privilege membership card. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Network to air Dugard home video

ABC will air home video Friday of kidnapping victim Jaycee Dugard, who was rescued last August after 18 years in captivity. Dugard, her mother and her half-sister will be seen and heard for the first time on-camera since she was abducted in 1991 near her home in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

UN official condemns honour killings

The UN's top human rights official is condemning domestic violence and the killing of women in the name of honour. Navi Pillay, left, says one in three women across the world are beaten, raped or otherwise abused sometime in their lives. Pillay says about 5,000 women each year are victims of so-called "honour killings," in which relatives kill women for relationships they believe bring shame to the family. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Men banned from styling women's hair

Gaza's Islamic Hamas government on Thursday banned men from working in women's hair salons, the latest step in its campaign to impose strict Islamic customs on Gaza's 1.5 million people.

Since seizing Gaza in 2007, Hamas has taken steps in that direction while avoiding a frontal assault on secularism. The majority of Gaza residents are conservative Muslims, but Hamas is under growing pressure from more radical groups to prove its fundamentalist credentials by imposing ever harsher edicts.

The latest measure irked one of the victims of the ban.

"Next thing you know, they will ban doctors from treating women, and will only let women treat women," said Barakat al-Ghoul, a 44-year-old hairdresser. "Tomorrow, they will ban everything."

Al-Ghoul, who has cut women's hair for 26 years, said a ban would be devastating. He said he has no other way of making a living.

Islamic tradition forbids women from showing their hair to men who are not their husbands or blood relatives. Until now, though, exceptions were made for the eight known male hairdressers in women's salons in Gaza City.

Since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, small ultra-radical Islamic groups have sprung up. Known as Jihadi Salafis, they advocate holy war and a strict, fundamentalist brand of Islam, dismissing Hamas as too pragmatic.

They are suspected in dozens of bombings of Internet cafes, music stores and other alleged purveyors of vice. All cinemas and bars closed years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India **Dozens killed in stampede**

KUMAR SINGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man comforts a woman in Kunda, India, Thursday. At least 63 people were killed and dozens of others injured in a stampede that broke out as thousands of people jostled each other to get free clothes and utensils being distributed during a religious function.

Malaysian writer claims censorship

CANING Malaysia's largest English-language newspaper has refused to publish a commentator's column on the caning of three Muslim women, weeks after it got into trouble with the government over a similar article by one of its editors.

Social activist Marina Mahathir said The Star spiked her weekly column because of concerns that such sensitive articles could jeopardize its printing permit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence mars advance polls in Iraq

BAGHDAD A string of deadly blasts shattered an early round of voting in Iraq Thursday, killing 17 people and highlighting the fragile nature of the country's security gains ahead of crucial parliamentary elections this Sunday.

Iraq security forces were out in full force, trying to protect early voters in an election that will determine who will lead the country through the crucial period of the U.S. troop drawdown and help decide whether the country can overcome its deep sectarian divisions.

But three explosions — a rocket attack and two suicide bombings— showed the ability of insurgents to carry out bloody attacks. They have promised to disrupt the voting with violence.

"Terrorists wanted to hamper the elections, thus they started to blow themselves up in the streets," said Deputy Interior Minister Ayden Khalid Qader, responsible for election-related security across the country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

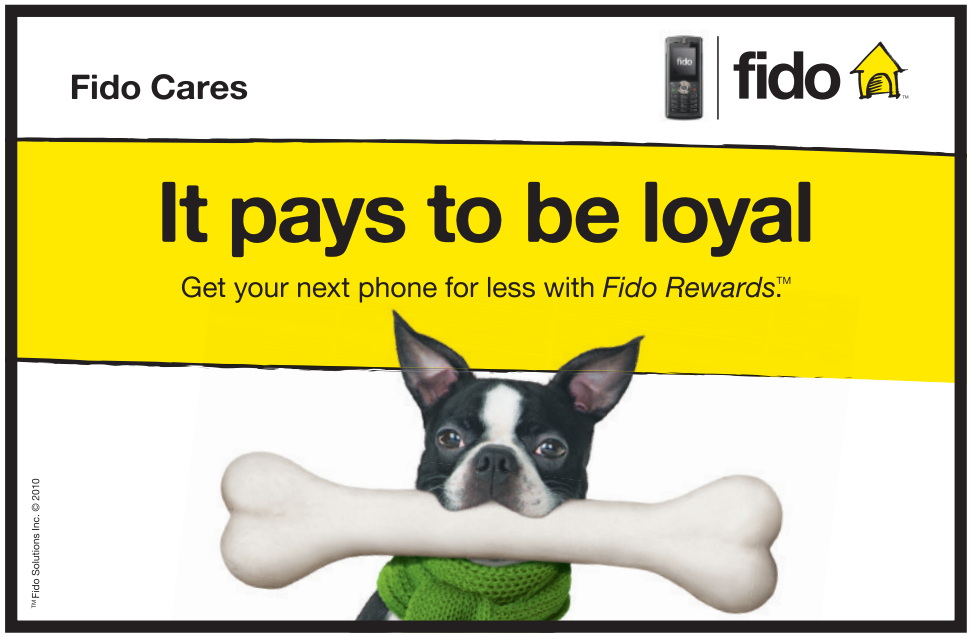
m.metronews.ca

While hardly a new slur, a top Republican is in hot water for "Joker" swipe at Obama. Scan this code for the story.

Gunman opens fire at Pentagon entrance

WASHINGTON A gunman coolly drew a weapon from his pocket and opened fire at a security checkpoint into the Pentagon on Thursday in a point-blank attack that wounded two police officers before the suspect was critically shot.

The two officers suffered grazing wounds and were being treated in a hospital, said Richard Keevill, chief of Pentagon police. Authorities had no motive for the shooting. The suspect, believed to be a U.S. citizen, walked up to the checkpoint at the Pentagon's subway entrance in an apparent attempt to get inside the massively fortified U.S. Defence Department headquarters. Reports last night said the gunman died in hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



California **Student protests**

BEN MARGOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

University of California at Berkeley student Natalia Garcia protests on campus Thursday. Demonstrations, marches, teach-ins and walkouts were planned across the U.S. in National Day of Action for Public Education, protesting budget cuts that have led to cancelled classes, faculty furloughs and steep fee hikes.

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Champs-Élysées to go green in May

Paris' Champs-Élysées will be cleared of traffic and blanketed with grass, flowers and trees in May — giving Parisians a chance to picnic there or stroll down the famous avenue barefoot. The May 22-24 event will aim to increase people's awareness about sustainable development. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATO fears increasing cyber attacks

NATO is facing new threats in cyberspace that cannot be met by lining up soldiers and tanks, the alliance's secretary-general said Thursday in an apparent reference to terror groups and criminal networks.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen said there were several international groups who want "to know what's going on inside NATO, and they also use cyberspace to achieve their goals."

"It's really a broad range of threats. There are many actors in cyberspace, and we have to develop a capacity to protect ourselves against those attacks," Fogh Rasmussen told reporters in Helsinki.

The alliance has been reticent to discuss its actions in countering cyber attacks and threats, but was prompted to tackle the problem after hackers unleashed a wave of attacks against NATO-member Estonia three years ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'No peace' in cyberspace

- Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt said there is "no peace" in cyberspace. "There are terrorists, spies, subversive attempts, ongoing attacks, as well as preparations for much more disruptive and destructive operations," he said.

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Landslides kill hundreds in Uganda

FLOODING Heavy rains in eastern Uganda have triggered flooding that has displaced more than 20,000 people and hampered search efforts to find victims of massive landslides feared to have killed hundreds, officials said Thursday.

Persistent heavy rains since early in the week have flooded more than 30 villages in the country's east, leading to the displacement of more than 20,000 people, said Joel Aguma, the police commander for eastern Uganda. Villagers have headed to higher ground and are waiting for assistance from aid groups and the government, he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. males claim more harassment

WORK A growing number of American men are claiming they are victims of sexual harassment in the workplace.

From 1990 to 2009, the percentage of sexual harassment claims filed by men has doubled to 16 per cent from eight per cent, according to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Lawyers at the commission say they've noticed the increase in complaints by men — more than 2,000 were filed in 2009 out of about 12,700 cases. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

INTERNET A California Marine accused of using Craigslist to arrange the rape of an ex-girlfriend has pleaded not guilty to five felonies. Jebidiah James Stipe entered his plea in Wyoming's Natrona County District Court Wednesday. Prosecutors say Stipe posted an ad on Craigslist pretending to be a Casper woman, asking for someone to help play out a "rape fantasy." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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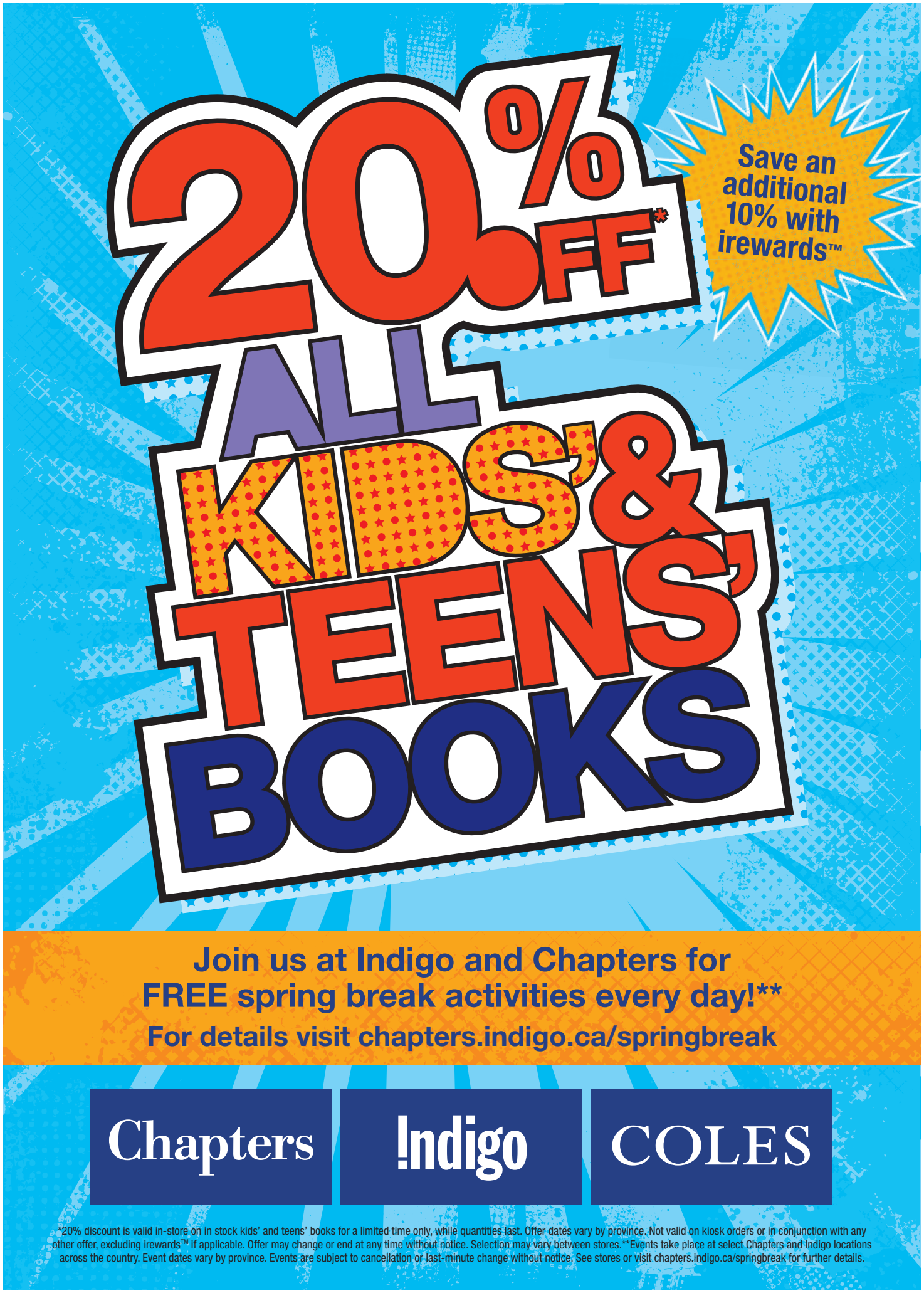
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Comment

London can offer world-class insight

UrbanCompass

The British media, which had a peevish Olympics, have been fun to kick around. But on one issue, they're right on.

Ever since the Economist declared Vancouver the most livable city in the world, the Brits have been beside themselves with ridicule. A real world-class city, they harrumph, is more than a nice view. A real world-class city is exciting and alive, not merely pleasant.

From the world-class heights of London, there's not much difference between Vancouver and Squamish, say. Just more of the same: Recreational. Benign. Boring.

After the Olympics, however, all that has changed. Even the Brits acknowledge that Vancouver has jacked it up a notch, world-class wise. If this keeps up, we may even come close to owning the world's podium. But let's keep a perspective.

If you spend any time in London, and I recommend spending as much time in London as you can, you are struck by the vast crowds on the streets. Robson Street at its dizziest Olympic peak still barely came close to the carnival that is Piccadilly Circus 24/7. Trafalgar Square, Harrod's, Charing Cross Station, Hyde Park, Buckingham Palace, Soho, wherever you go, London is like a permanent Olympic event.

And it's no big deal. Public transit: Trains, buses, undergrounds, bridges are all designed to handle the daily peregrinations of 10 million people, plus, on any given day, thousands of tourists.

London, in short, is an annual gold-medal urban champion. Here in Vancouver, we're just getting started.

The trick is to build on the excitement of the Olympics and we could look to London for help.

London has great galleries, shops, museums, nightlife. Vancouver has ... sigh. At least we can remember what it's like to have world-class fun and try to have it again.

London has great transit. Vancouver has some transit.

London has bobbies: Friendly, helpful, respectful. Vancouver's police have finally discovered crowd management doesn't necessarily include Tasers and pepper spray. We can only hope that a kinder, gentler police force is a permanent legacy of the Games.

London has two Michelin three-star restaurants, eight two-star and 40 one-star. Vancouver remains unrated, despite its dining pretensions. Daniel Boulud and Jean-Georges Vongerichten, two three-star chefs from New York, have opened restaurants in Vancouver. Kind of like Lewis and Clark discovering the wilderness.

London has 2,000 years of recorded history. Vancouver has 200. Now, if we can absorb the lessons of the past few weeks, we can start writing the next chapter with world-class confidence.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Views

Placing a call for worst cellphone bills

Marketplace

Dale Bass is a cellphone customer from Kamloops, B.C., with a text-mad son. Dale decided to add Liam to her family plan. She believed she was buying an unlimited text message package but when she got her bill, discovered she was getting charged for extra text messages at the rate of 15 cents a pop.

We've been investigating stories like Dale's and have put out a call for Canada's worst cellphone bill.

Here are some tips when looking for a cellphone package.

Check your bill regularly — and carefully. Spotting a problem quickly can help your case.

Document everything. When dealing with a customer service representative get as much as you can in writing or write down the details yourself. Get the rep's name, the details of your plan, how they've offered to fix your issue, and date your notes in case you have to refer to them later.

Talk to a manager or supervisor. If you're getting nowhere with front-line reps, ask to speak with a manager. And if you are refusing to pay your bills in the interim, cellphone companies could suspend your service or report you to a collection agency.

Complain to a third party. Report your grief to the Commissioner of Complaints for Telecommunications Services. If you're getting the runaround, it can make the company deal with it, and if you don't like the outcome it may investigate further.

Check out the competition. There are online services that can suggest better plans for you than the one you might currently have.

Make the cellphone companies compete for your business. Tell them you'll be talking to others to find the best deal. And even when you're ready to sign on, get the shortest term possible to keep flexible as your needs change and rates get more competitive.

Find out who has Canada's worst cellphone bill on Marketplace tonight airs at 8:30 on CBC Television.

Wendy Mesley is a co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show, which airs each Friday at 8:30 p.m. on CBC Television.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Aircraft lead surge in U.S. factory orders in January

Orders to U.S. factories posted the biggest increase in four months in January, led by a surge in demand for commercial aircraft. The increase was another sign that manufacturing is helping to support the economic recovery. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Asper steps down as Canwest CEO

After a long battle to remain at the helm of Canwest Global Communications, Leonard Asper announced Thursday he has resigned as president and CEO of the crumbling newspaper and broadcast empire founded by his father.

The move, widely expected after Calgary cable giant Shaw Communications won bankruptcy court approval to take control of Canwest's broadcasting assets, nearly severs the last Asper family tie to the Winnipeg company.

Leonard Asper

Leonard's brother and sister, David and Gail Asper, resigned from the Canwest board last month, though technically the family still holds a controlling block of multiple-vote shares in Canwest.

In a brief note to Canwest staff, Leonard Asper — the son of Canwest founder Israel (Izzy) Asper who died in 2003 — expressed little emotion as he announced his departure as a "natural time for me to move on."

"This decision did not come without a lot of careful consideration," wrote Asper, whose own last-minute bid to retain some control over the company failed when Shaw's offer won approval.

"Taking this action now will also allow me to pursue other business opportunities and avoid any conflict of interest that I may have."

Asper, 45, will continue on as a consultant to Canwest until the restructuring process has been completed.

Canwest's TV business will continue to be managed by Peter Viner and senior management at newspaper publishing and online operations will stay the same. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Business in brief

PERMITS Municipalities issued $5.7 billion in building permits in January, a 4.9 per cent decline from December. That's still 32.7 per cent higher than January 2009.

FOOD The corn industry is lashing out at an Oscar-nominated documentary, Food Inc., that has grossed out grocery shoppers, saying the film is unfair to many of the nation's farmers and shouldn't win.

SHOPPING American shoppers shrugged off the snow that hammered much of the country in February to buy spring clothing and other items, resulting in solid sales gains for many retailers. A broad array of merchants, from luxury retailer Nordstrom to midbrow Macy's Inc. and Limited Brands Inc. and discounter Target Corp., reported rising sales on Thursday that beat Wall Street analysts' estimates. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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New rules for income trusts

Canada **Budget**

TAX The federal government is moving to restrict income trusts looking to shelter themselves from taxes by acquiring large tax losses in complex deals with unrelated companies.

Time

- Ottawa moved to change the tax rules governing income trusts in 2006.

"Aggressive schemes have been designed to use these provisions to achieve inappropriate tax loss trading that would not be allowed as between two corporations," the government said in Thursday's budget.

Under the new rules, trusts acquiring a business with big tax losses will be restricted in their ability to use those losses to shelter their earnings from taxes like a corporation would be when acquiring another corporation.

Starting next year business income trusts will begin to be taxed more like corporations.

Ahead of those changes, several trusts have looked to acquire large pools of tax losses so that they can avoid paying tax. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Greece avoids trouble and passes key test with successful bond issue

ATHENS Greece raised badly needed cash with a bond issue Thursday, passing a key test of its ability to avoid a disastrous debt default and dig out of a financial crisis that has shaken the European Union.

The bond was oversubscribed — meaning demand exceeded available bonds — within an hour of the book opening, with 7 billion euros ($9.5 billion U.S) in offers received. The government was seeking a maximum of 5 billion euros, said the chief of Greece's debt management agency, Petros Christodoulou.

Austerity measures

- The announcement of the issue comes a day after debt-ridden Greece detailed a whole new round of painful austerity measures, including salary cuts for civil servants, pension freezes and tax hikes on cigarettes, alcohol, luxury goods and gems.

Government spokesman George Petalotis said market response to the issue was encouraging.

"We are pleased because there is very heavy demand, and that means something, it is an indication."

The sale reflects on Greece's ability to raise money to pay off expiring bonds and avoid the risk of default. But although the final offer and yield figures were not immediately available, a note from UniCredit Research said the yield was expected to be around 6.5 per cent — more than double the yield on benchmark German bonds of similar maturity. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Jets, Chargers have trade agreement

The New York Jets have reached an agreement in principle with the San Diego Chargers to acquire cornerback Antonio Cromartie. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Doc off to hot start

If first impressions are important to baseball fans in Philadelphia, new Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay aced his entry exam.

Halladay's spring debut with the Philadelphia Phillies did nothing to kill the buzz that engulfed the City of Brotherly love when the team dealt for the former Cy Young Award winner three months ago.

Halladay got the Grapefruit League schedule under way with two near-perfect innings in the Phillies' 3-2 win over the New York Yankees on Thursday.

The 32-year-old Halladay threw a pair of hitless innings while striking out three. Halladay was at the crux of a blockbuster four-team set of trades in December between the Phillies, Toronto Blue Jays, Seattle Mariners and Oakland Athletics.

"I was excited for it," said Halladay, who spent his first 12 seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays. "You anticipate it, but once you get into the game, the game is always the same. Your approach is the same. I looked forward to it, especially early on. It's as much fun for me as it is for everyone else."

Halladay allowed just one base runner in his first outing with the Phillies.

The right-hander has appeared to make a relatively seamless transition from Toronto to Philadelphia.

It might help that the two teams' spring training facilities are located a few kilometres apart.

But Halladay also believes the makeup of the Phillies clubhouse — a majority of veterans who have played in the post-season in the last three seasons — has made the adjustment easier than he expected.

"It surprises me how easy it has been every day to come in and feel normal," Halladay said.

"There are going to be different things, like facing teams you're not used to. But it surprises me how comfortable it's been. It's a little bit of everything: The guys here, the staff — everyone has been really good."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AL MESSERSCHMIDT/GETTY IMAGES

Pitcher Roy Halladay of the Philadelphia Phillies starts against the New York Yankees on Thursday in Clearwater, Fla.

NFL headed into uncharted territory

SALARY CAP The NFL has swallowed the poison pill.

When the league and the players association reached a new collective bargaining agreement in 2006, a clause called for eliminating the salary cap in 2010. Both sides assumed an uncapped season would be so distasteful that a new contract would be finalized long before the cap disappeared.

Even when the owners opted out of the CBA in 2008, little thought was given to an actual removal of the salary cap that generally has been beneficial for both owners and players.

On Friday, pro football's salary cap dies. Free agency begins under a whole new set of rules, and no one is sure where it will lead — perhaps even to a work stoppage in 2011.

Yes, the most profitable and popular sport in America is entering territory even more uncharted than the end zone was for the St. Louis Rams last season.

"The situation we're walking into is certainly unknown for everyone," Tampa Bay Buccaneers general manager Mark Dominik says.

"So no one can really look at the crystal ball and say here's what people are going to spend and here's what people aren't going to spend. It's all pure speculation."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 3 Toronto 2 (SO)
Carolina 4 Ottawa 1
Atlanta 6 N.Y. Islanders 3
Nashville 4 Los Angeles 2
Phoenix 3 Colorado 1
Pittsburgh 5 N.Y. Rangers 4 (OT)
St. Louis 6 Dallas 1
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NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

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Miami 114 L.A. Lakers 111 (OT)
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18 sports

Saints cut Grant
New Orleans Saints general manager Mickey Loomis says the club will release starting defensive end Charles Grant. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL Puck chasin' in Tennessee

FREDERICK BREEDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nashville Predators right winger J.P. Dumont chases the puck in a game against the Los Angeles Kings in Nashville, Tenn., on Thursday. The Predators triumphed 4-2.

Olympic glory has a price tag

The news that the Canadian government will extend its commitment to high-performance sport is welcome indeed.

National pride requires an investment.

While we all revelled in the performances by this country's athletes at the home Olympics, it's safe to say there will be more moments to enjoy in the future.

But Canadians must avoid a tendency to jump off the bandwagon once the Olympics have left town. It demands an understanding that winning needs support and role models don't just appear — they are nurtured in a willing environment.

In tough economic times it's an interesting — even debatable — call.

It can easily be argued that more pressing needs for public funds exist in our fragile society.

So why make the leap?

The answer is an acceptance that the dividends paid on this kind of speculative, monetary, commitment are not immediately apparent. But when the payoff comes, as it did in Vancouver and Whistler, the benefit is immense.

"The money needs to come in larger part from businesses, and if this can happen the impact will be profound," said six-time Olympic medallist Clara Hughes. "To get anywhere near the realistic amount of money it takes, the source cannot be the government alone."

Bobsled pilot Lyndon Rush captured the first Canadian medal in 46 years in the four-man event. "I am a direct result of Own the Podium," said the native of Humboldt, Sask. "When they got the money they recruited me. I worked hard and the payback is this bronze medal. I think it was worth it."

As Rush was speaking he cradled the medal that hung around his neck like a national treasure.

Maybe it is, just as the other 25 medals won at the home Olympics are. So, too, are the record 14 gold medals, which allowed O Canada to be the most frequently played anthem at the Games.

But all that patriotism comes at a price and it hinges on great performance.

Finally, it seems, Canadians are willing to pay.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games.

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Visit Metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

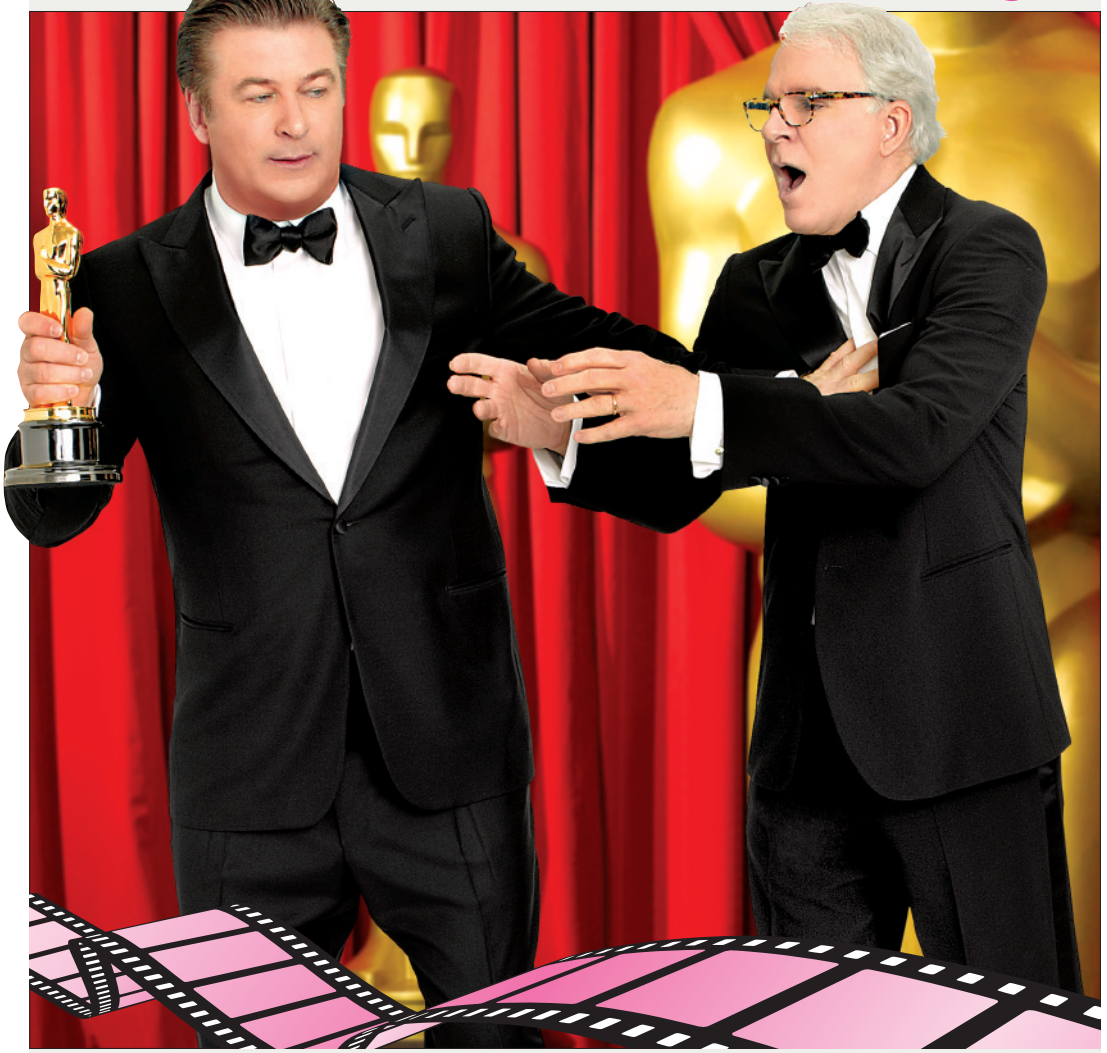
Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Battlefield Oscar

Pg 20



Alec Baldwin, left, and Steve Martin will be officiating the Avatar and The Hurt Locker brawl at the Oscars; our writers weigh in as well.

Movies

Pg 21

Alice is the bizarre movie Burton was born to direct.

Music

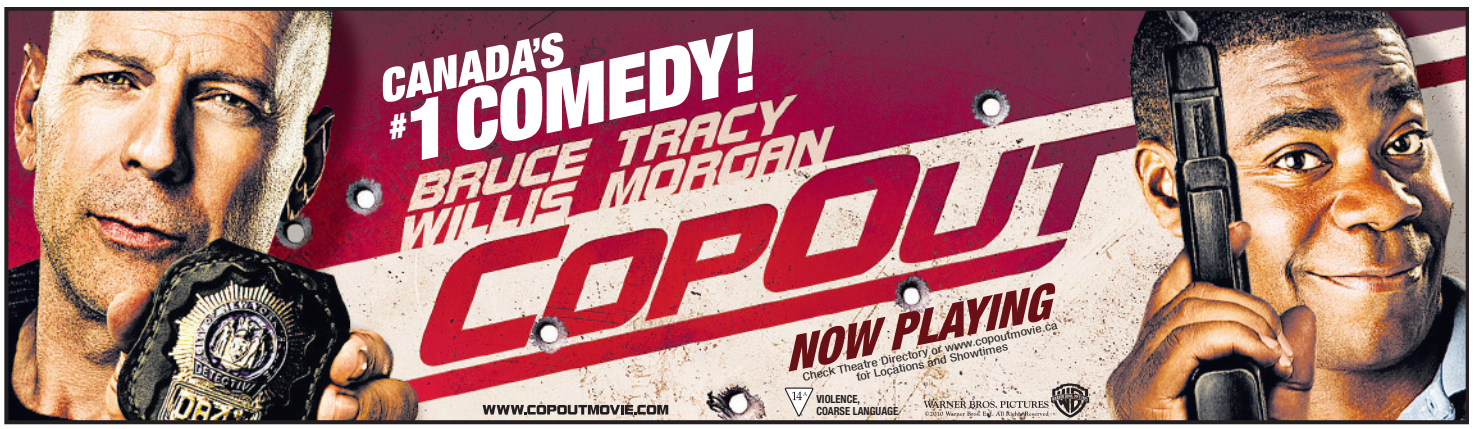
Pg 29

Little Boots trying for her big break in North America.

Television

Pg 33

Hanks brings another band of brothers to the small screen.



On TV
The 82nd Annual Academy Awards airs live on CTV Sunday at 8:30 p.m. ET.

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

James Cameron's Avatar and Kathryn Bigelow's The Hurt Locker are clear frontrunners in the Best Picture and Best Director categories at the Oscars.

Faceoff night at Oscars

Metro critics go to battle over who will win Academy race

Richard Crouse

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Mo'Nique (Precious)
"I think this is as close to a 'gimme' as you are going to get this year."

BEST SUPPPORTING ACTOR: Christoph Waltz (Inglourious Basterds)
"Again, this is a category where the winner is rather obvious. I love how Christopher Plummer says 'I am happy to be nominated,' but Christoph Waltz takes this one."

BEST ACTRESS: Meryl Streep (Julie & Julia) or Sandra Bullock (The Blind Side)
"It's a flip of the coin for me. I would like to see Meryl Streep win because I think she took Julia Child and turned her into an actual person rather than a caricature … but Sandra Bullock has been making amazing speeches. She took a movie that was deeply average and turned it into something that was Oscar worthy."

BEST ACTOR: Jeff Bridges (Crazy Heart)
"He is Hollywood royalty. He has put in an unbelievable performance that has thrown vanity out the window."

BEST DIRECTOR: Kathryn Bigelow (The Hurt Locker)
"This is a race between the first too: James Cameron and Kathryn Bigelow and I think Kathryn Bigelow is going to take this one."

BEST PICTURE: Avatar
"It has been living at the very centre of popular culture since it came out, and not only has it made billions of dollars but it has also changed the way Hollywood is doing business now."

Steve Gow

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Mo'Nique (Precious)
"She really is a fantastic character in this movie. Great villain; which Hollywood really loves."

BEST SUPPPORTING ACTOR: Christoph Waltz (Inglourious Basterds)
"The only chance that he won't get it is that maybe some of the voters out there are sort of thinking that everyone else is going to vote for him so they kind of pick a secondary person."

BEST ACTRESS: Meryl Streep (Julie & Julia) or Sandra Bullock (The Blind Side)
"This is a really interesting category. Some might vote for Meryl, some for Sandra. And up the middle you might see someone like Carey Mulligan."

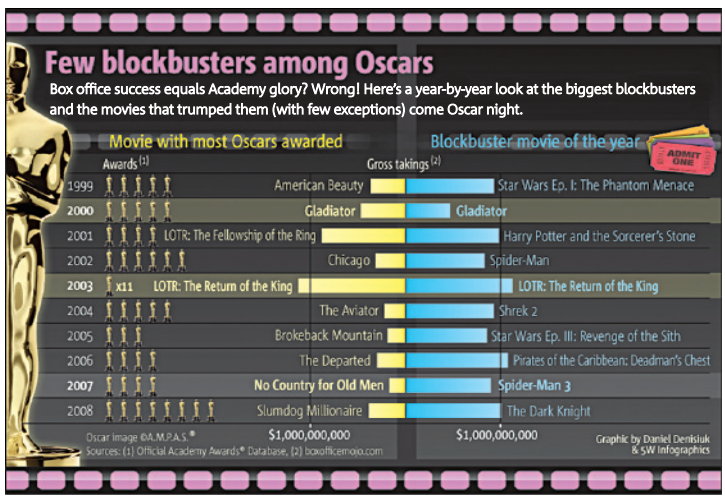
BEST ACTOR: Jeff Bridges (Crazy Heart)
"(The Academy) loves these kinds of roles where you see the star acting outside their element and a little grungy."

BEST DIRECTOR: Katherine Bigelow (The Hurt Locker)
"I think voters really like that there is that ex-husband factor as well in James Cameron (he and Bigelow were married) … I think they really want to see her sort of beat him."

BEST PICTURE: Avatar
"Maybe it is my heart here, but I kind of hope The Hurt Locker wins."

On the web

• Want more of Crouse vs. Gow? Watch a video of Metro film critics making their Oscar picks at metronews.ca/movies.



… and now the Razzies

THE WORST While Hollywood's elite will be celebrating the best of 2009 Sunday evening, the night before will see a celebration of a different nature when the 30th annual Golden Razzies Awards are announced a few miles further down Hollywood Boulevard.

The Razzies, the Golden Raspberry Award Foundation's annual salute to the very worst in film, has acted as a kind of snarky younger sibling to the Oscars since it started humbly in 1980, growing into what E! News has called "the foremost authority on all things that suck on the big screen." The two films leading this year's pack, with seven nominations each, are Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen and Land of the Lost.

Worst Actress nominee Sandra Bullock (for "All About Steve") could make history by being the first actress to win a Razzie one day and an Oscar the next, since she's also up for Best Actress at the Academy Awards for "the Blind Side." Surprisingly, Bullock has said she'll be there. "I'm showing up if I win," she told Entertainment Weekly.

NED EHRBAR/METRO WORLD NEWS

Hollywood Votes
Academy Awards

What's buzzing at the Oscars

RED CARPET, GREEN DRESS: Most women attending the Academy Awards choose their dress weeks in advance and keep it a secret until the big day. James Cameron's wife, Suzy Amis Cameron, started looking for her dress more than a year ago and she showed it off on a mannequin at a party Wednesday night.

Suzy Cameron held an eco-dress design contest to raise funds for Muse Elementary, the eco-friendly school she founded in Los Angeles. She unveiled the winning dress and its designer, 21-year-old Michigan State senior Jillian Granz, at environmental organization Global Green USA's seventh annual pre-Oscar party.

The long, flowing gown is made almost entirely from sustainable materials. It's one shouldered, with a big slit up the side, and it's Avatar blue.

"Suzy likes blue," said James Cameron, an Oscar nominee for best director and best picture for Avatar, which features a blue humanoid species living on a faraway moon called Pandora.

MIRRORS EVERYWHERE: Instead of returning to their seats after presenting or accepting an Academy Award, Oscar's stars might opt to relax in the Architectural Digest green room backstage at the Kodak Theatre, where they can have a drink, watch the show on a flat-screen TV and check their reflection in multiple mirrors.

Interior designer Roger Thomas, who is responsible for the look of the Wynn hotels, says Oscar's green room was inspired by Hollywood's golden age. Black lacquer furniture is trimmed in shades of cream and white, flanked by end tables topped with orchid plants and oversized crystals. An outdoor garden space connected to the green room provides celebrity smokers with a private, covered place to light up. The floor inside is splattered with paint, like one might find in the art department on a studio lot. And there are mirrors everywhere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metro Twitter

Metro Movies Goes To Oscars
• Follow Metro writers and editors @metro-movies as they live tweet their rants and raves on Hollywood's biggest night Sunday.

At a glance
Alice In Wonderland ⊕⊕⊕, Brooklyn's Finest ⊕⊕, New York, I Love You ⊕⊕, Frozen ⊕⊕⊕, Last Train Home ⊕⊕⊕½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Plenty of eye-candy

Helen Bonham Carter plays the Red Queen in Tim Burton's Alice in Wonderland.

Alice In **Wonderland**

Director: Tim Burton
Stars: Johnny Depp, Mia Wasikowska
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Tim Burton was born to adapt the surrealist fantasy Alice In Wonderland. The visually inspired filmmaker is known for the twisted imagination and affection for the bizarre needed to translate Lewis Carroll's classic universe to the screen.

From a technical standpoint, his film is a triumph. The eye-candy will captivate anyone watching with those new-fangled 3-D glasses.

However, there's little going on to stimulate audiences beyond the visual flourishes. It's a shame because Burton is capable of more than just surface style and the source material offers plenty to explore. But when the package is this pretty, a lack of depth is forgivable.

Surprisingly this is not a straight adaptation, but a sequel to Carroll's original stories. The movie stars Mia Wasikowska as an older Alice verging on adulthood.

Frustrated by the suffocating social codes of Victorian society, Alice escapes to Wonderland with no memory of her previous adventures.

She is reintroduced to all of her old friends and must embark on a quest to overthrow the Red Queen. It all amounts to a message about favouring individuality over succumbing to the expectations of others, which is sweet but unnecessary. The world of the film is so exquisitely realized that it's disappointing to find such a conventional story at the centre.

Still, no one is going to see this movie for complex storytelling and it delivers on plenty of other levels. A cast of comedians and character actors like Alan Rickman and Stephen Fry play all the recognizable Wonderland characters and clearly had a blast with their roles.

Burton regulars Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter take on the Mad Hatter and Red Queen respectively and unsurprisingly steal all or their scenes (even if Depp's role was unnecessarily expanded to accommodate his fame).

It's easy to get lost in the stunning visuals and eccentric performances, but hopefully Tim Burton will rediscover his interest in characterization and storytelling soon. As impressive as this film is, he's capable of more.

• For a trailer of Alice In Wonderland, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

New York doesn't succeed like Paris

New York, **I Love You**

Director: Brett Ratner, Joshua Marston, Mira Nair and others
Stars: Ethan Hawke, Natalie Portman, Julie Christie
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Drea de Matteo stars in a segment of New York, I Love You.

REVIEW In 2006, filmgoers were charmed by Paris Je T'aime, an anthology film comprised of short love letters to Paris by 21 different filmmakers. The project was surprisingly consistent for a film of it's kind and proved to be a minor hit.

Three years later, a few producers have tried to repeat the trick with New York, I Love You. The plan was to apply the same format to New York and it should have worked. But, unfortunately the roster of filmmakers hired for this omnibus is not nearly as impressive as the previous lineup. There are a few nice shorts, but overall the film is quite bland and predictable.

Hollywood hack Brett Ratner (Rush Hour) surprisingly directed the funniest segment about a teenager who inadvertently takes James Caan's disabled daughter to his prom. Maria Full Of Grace director Joshua Marston also contributed an amazing segment featuring Cloris Leachman and Eli Wallach as a sweetly co-dependent bickering old couple. But sadly, the other shorts fall flat. While Paris Je T'aime succeeded on the strength of the directors, New York, I Love You succeeds mainly because of its all star cast that includes Ethan Hawke, John Hurt, Natalie Portman, Julie Christie, and others.

Eddie's cure for awards blues

VIEWPOINT Eddie Izzard has a cure for those awards-season blues amid the seemingly endless string of ceremonies leading up to the Academy Awards.

Izzard — the host of one of the season's final shows, Friday's Spirit Awards honouring independent film — suggests that Hollywood simply add more ceremonies.

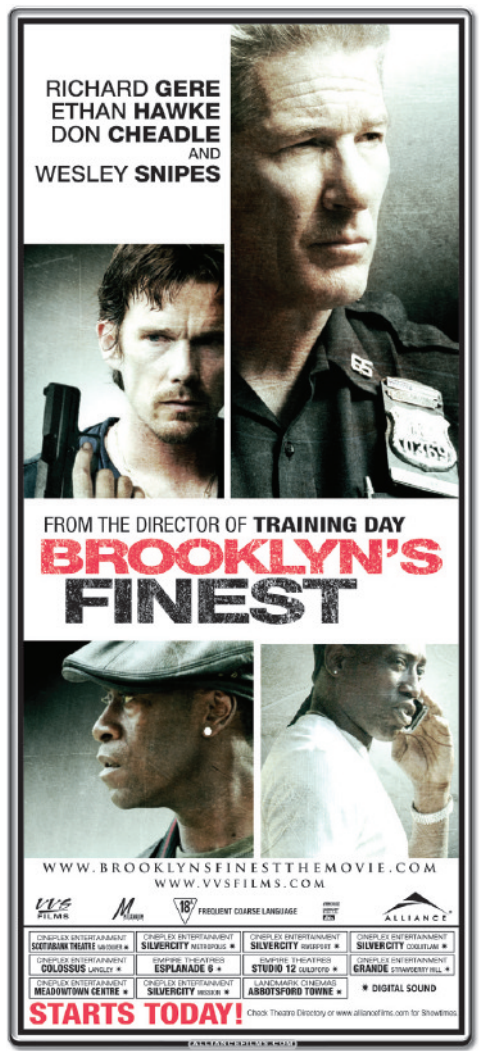
The logic is akin to making children caught smoking light up an entire pack of cigarettes one after another, so they'll lose their taste for tobacco.

"There's too many of these things. Either too many or not enough, I think. Maybe another 100. I think they should have compulsory ones, compulsory awards that everyone has to go to.

"They'll be going, 'Oh, another awards ceremony,' and people are really ticked off when they win another one," British comic Izzard said.

If that does not cure Hollywood's awards addiction, Izzard has a more extreme idea. "I like the idea that people who win awards, they get killed," Izzard said. "And then people would be so good at not winning."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Patrick Harris turns blue

Neil Patrick Harris has signed up for The Smurfs – the new, CG/live-action blend take on the little blue people. According to Deadline Hollywood, he's playing a human character in the movie. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●●○ EXCELLENT; ●●●○○ GOOD; ●●○○○ FAIR; ●○○○○ POOR

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Pierce Brosnan, left, and Ewan McGregor square off in Roman Polanski's The Ghost Writer.

Writer gripping thriller

The Ghost Writer
Director: Roman Polanski
Stars: Pierce Brosnan, Ewan McGregor
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

It's difficult to watch Roman Polanski's grippy and enjoyable new thriller, The Ghost Writer, without being reminded of current events involving both the director and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, on whom the film's Adam Lang (Pierce Brosnan) is obviously — if not explicitly — based.

It doesn't help matters that both Polanski and Blair have faced very high-profile legal challenges leading up to the film's release.

But even without the real-world signifiers, the film is a satisfying, stylish ride, showing once again that, legal and personal issues notwithstanding, Polanski is still a great filmmaker.

Of course, much of that is to do with author Robert Harris, who adapted the screenplay from his own novel, and stars Brosnan and Olivia Williams, turning in career-high performance as the embattled former PM and his wife under siege at a publisher's vacation home in New England while protesters chant outside the gates and charges from the International Criminal Court loom.

Into this mix is thrown Ewan McGregor as an unnamed ghost writer brought in to spruce up Lang's memoirs after the previous ghost writer's apparent suicide. McGregor's character is in over his head from the get-go, providing the Scottish actor's brow plenty of exercise.

The only real drawbacks to the film are the often garish digital effects — used by necessity since Polanski couldn't actually go on location to the U.S. or England.

It can be distracting when a great performance is given before a clearly green-screened bay window overlooking the Atlantic.

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Jackman case in civil rights movie
Precious director Lee Daniels, talking to USA Today about his Oscar week activities, let slip that he's cast Hugh Jackman in his next project, U.S. civil rights movie Selma. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Englishman in N.Y.

Brit Pattinson once again steps into American shoes

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Robert Pattinson has been playing Americans so often that he's forgotten how to talk like a Brit.

In his latest, Remember Me, the Twilight heartthrob stars a soulful young New Yorker attending NYU, but he insists he didn't need any help sounding like a native. "I've never had a dialect coach or anything," Pattinson says. "Ironically, I've only had a dialect coach for this film I'm doing now, which I'm doing now in an English accent. I guess I've forgotten how to do an English accent."

Remember Me opens next Friday

Robert Pattinson and Emilie de Ravin star in Remember Me.

Part of what attracted Pattinson to Remember Me — a mix of love story and family drama in which two college students (Pattinson and Lost star Emilie de Ravin) fall for each other — was that it didn't follow a traditional love story mould.

"The way the plot was structured, it didn't fit into any kind of normal category. It didn't seem very formulaic," Pattinson says. "When you meet someone who you feel whatever for, it doesn't necessarily mean that that's a finish line — like, 'Oh, you'll be all right now afterward.' People now, everyone does all of these things because they think they should be happy like all the time. Doing therapy, and taking antidepressants and all of these things."

While he didn't struggle with the accent, the actor admits filming on location in New York City wasn't easy, especially with the constant attention from diehard Twilight fans and paparazzi.

"The first two weeks were kind of crazy," he remembers. "It was annoying people as well, that all of these crowds came and disrupted people's days."

Movie feature

Pattinson has tried to harness his feelings about the constant attention to use for his performance.

"I was trying to figure out a way to use the sort of rage that was built up, but you couldn't really use it for that character," he says.

"If the same thing had happened during this movie that I'm doing now, it would have been perfect and I could have gone around hitting paparazzi and it would have been great because I would have been staying in character."

Consider that a warning to any photographers hanging around the set of Bel Ami, based on the French novel by Guy de Maupassant. Pattinson says he was keen on taking on the new project because it was a departure from the vampire character that's made him an international star.

"I thought there was a kind of irony in Bel Ami, because a lot of the women are attracted to this character and then he kind of screws them over and steals their money and stuff," Pattinson says.

On the web

- For trailers, photos, screen times — and to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

A scene from Frozen.

Frozen one cool thriller

Frozen
Director: Adam Green
Stars: Shawn Ashmore, Emma Bell
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Early on in Frozen, three young skiers begin to debate a morbid topic — the worst way to die. Sure it may be a sly bit of thematic foreshadowing on filmmaker Adam Green's part but it also summarizes this thriller's best asset — anticipation.

Without apology, the director borrows from legendary auteur Alfred Hitchcock in this attempt at a tightly-wound single-set thriller that relies less on gore (unlike Green's 2006 cult-hit Hatchet) and more on uncovering the inner psychological fears we restrain — acrophobia, isolation and of course, death by frostbite (what else?).

After college buddies Joe (X-Men's Shawn Ashmore), Dan (Kevin Zegers) and Parker (Emma Bell) scam their way into one last late-day chair lift up a ski hill, a communication breakdown leaves the trio marooned mid-ride.

While the movie doesn't exploit fear of heights as much as one would expect, Green does successfully create some squirm-worthy moments involving frostbite and those waiting wolves.

Sure the thrills are as lean as the premise is thin; plus, the ending is abruptly irredeemable.

But for all its shortcomings, Frozen is a well-intentioned thriller that should at least quench those curiosities about one of the worst ways to die.

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Joe Morgenstern, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
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McAdams signs on for Allen film

Rachel McAdams is set to engage in a storied Hollywood tradition — appearing in a Woody Allen film. The Canadian actress has signed on to co-star in the director's next project, according to Hollywood Reporter. IMDB.COM

Reel Time

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

A Prophet

Director: Jacques Audiard
Stars: Tahar Rahim, Niels Arestrup
Classification: 18A
Rating: ●●½

Prophet fails to materialize

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

The odds-on favourite to snag the Best Foreign-Language Film Oscar at this Sunday's Oscar telecast, Jacques Audiard's A Prophet is also a pretty good bet to connect with North American audiences, mainly because its tale of an incarcerated Muslim youth (Tahar Rahim) ascending to the top of the prison pecking order plays like two and a half hours of pretty good TV.

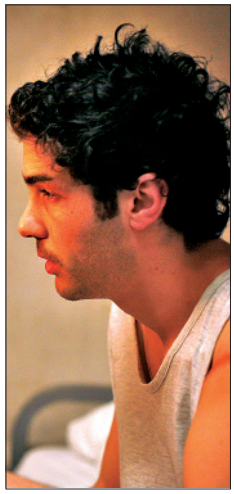
It is not, however, particularly good cinema, running its protagonist through a laboriously constructed narrative maze towards a predetermined — and vapourously "ambiguous" — conclusion.

There's surely tension in the opening passages, as Rahim's Malik is conscripted by the cellblock's ruling petty tyrant (Niels Arestrup) to murder a fellow inmate, and the scene where he does the deed features nightmarish details (like the hiding place for his razor).

But this presentation, for all its intensity, also skirts prurience: Audiard isn't exploring violence, just deploying it at regular intervals to goose his audience. (The less said about the scenes where the dead man returns as a ghostly vision to prod our conflicted anti-hero's conscience, the better)

A Prophet certainly moves — there's nary a dull moment — but propulsion without purpose suggests autopilot (never mind the fact that the route, from underworld pawn to hardened goodfella, was mapped out by Scorsese decades ago).

No doubt that there's plenty of skill in A Prophet — unfortunately, there's nothing else to it.



Tahar Rahim stars as incarcerated Muslim youth Malik in Jacques Audiard's A Prophet. The movie has been nominated for an Oscar in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

"AN AMAZING 3-D EXPERIENCE!" Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW

"BRILLIANT!" Danielle McGimsie, etalk

JOHNNY DEPP

A FILM BY TIM BURTON

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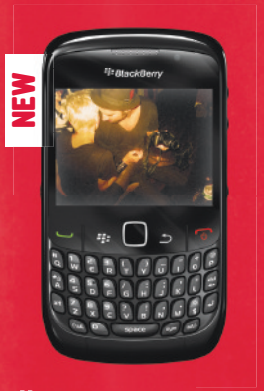

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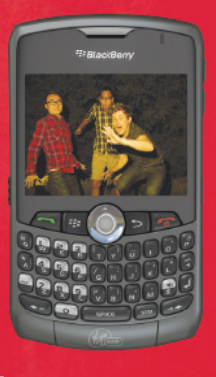

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Palain gets ready for Oscars

Sarah Palin showed up at a Hollywood gift suite with two daughters, her brother and a small entourage in tow and loaded up with free promotional cosmetic and fashion items being given away in connection with Oscar-week festivities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reel Time

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

Not their Finest moment

Brooklyn's **Finest**

Director: Antoine Fuqua
Stars: Ethan Hawke, Don Cheadle, Richard Gere
Classification: STC
Rating: 🌐🌐

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

The best thing that can be said about Brooklyn's Finest is that it is bargain priced. Like a Costco DVD combo pack, viewers are treated to three derivative police stories for the price of one. Unfortunately, if you enjoy realistic and artfully crafted crime films, you'll have to look elsewhere.

Ethan Hawke plays a cop in Brooklyn's Finest.

This movie plays like three sub-par episodes of NYPD Blue combined into an exhausting 140 minutes. Much of the acting is excellent and almost makes some of the characters believable. But for the most part, this is a waste of talent destined to stock clearance sale DVD bins.

Antoine Fuqua (Training Day) directs Brooklyn's Finest as if it is an earnest drama, emphasizing the absurdity of the project. Nothing is harder to buy that clichés played as truth and the three intertwined plots are marred with this issue.

Ethan Hawke plays a poor police officer with an ever-expanding family who starts stealing confiscated drug money to buy a new house.

Don Cheadle plays an undercover officer asked to send a longtime friend to prison. And finally, Richard Gere plays as disenchanted retiring cop assigned to train a fresh faced new recruit. The concepts are all familiar and they play out in obvious ways.

It has to be said that both Ethan Hawke and Don Cheadle manage to rise above the material and give solid performances that almost make their sections work.

But "almost" is the key word and sadly most of their good work goes to waste.

Richard Gere on the other hand is placid throughout. His character is supposed to be embarrassed by his profession and quietly goes about his work waiting for it all to be over.

There's a sense that the actor feels that way about the movie itself and is too frustrated by the proceedings to put in any effort.

If that's not actually the case, then he at least should have felt that way along with everyone else involved.

A scene from the documentary Last Train Home.

Home vital film on China

Last Train **Home**

Director: Lixin Fan
Classification: STC
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐🌐

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW In a post-Lord of the Rings moment of CGI crowd scenes, the sight of thousands of real, flesh-and-blood people milling about onscreen has the power to stop breath; the shots of rural Chinese workers swarming madly through a transit station in Lixin Fan's documentary Last Train Home are quite literally suffocating.

That's absolutely a compliment, by the way — the intensity of the visuals match the seriousness of his subject, which is nothing less than the social and economic erosion of the world's largest national population.

Its portrait of a labour class cut off from their domestic lives starts off panoramic — those train station shots — and then turns intimate, using one family's fractured dynamics as a microcosm of national dysfunction.

Zhanghua and Sugin Yang work brutal hours in a metropolitan sweatshop, sending nearly all of the money they make to their children in the county; returning home for Chinese New Year, the are greeted not as breadwinners but as deserters.

Eldest daughter Qin resents her parents' absence and retaliates by leaving home — an ironic response that's part adolescent hormones and part cultural inevitability.

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Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Many different takes on Alice

Classic story has several interpretations

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

Will the real Alice Kingsley please stand up?

Is she the 19 year old rebel played by Mia Wasikowska in this weekend's 3-D Alice in Wonderland directed by Tim Burton? Or the insane character of America McGee's video game Alice? Or the martial arts instructor of a recent Syfy channel adaptation?

In fact, she's all those people and more.

Originally written in 1865 by Lewis Carroll, the little girl who found a world of wonder down the rabbit hole, has become one of the more enduring and malleable characters of literature and film.

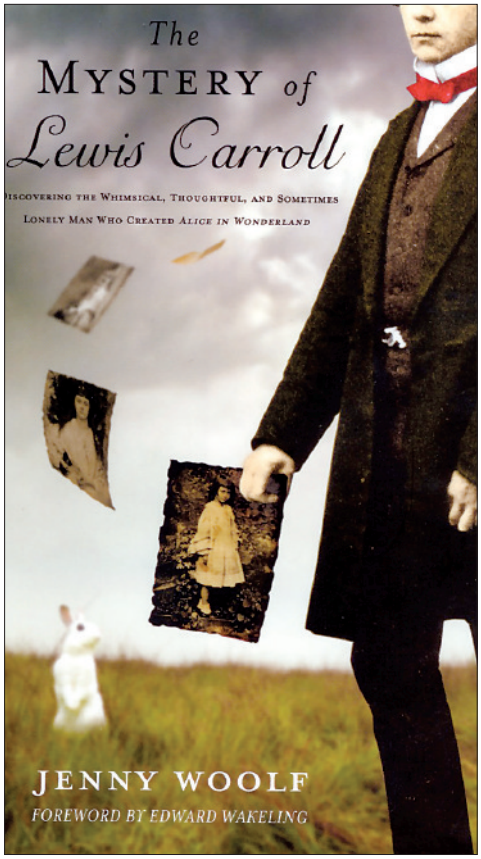
"The books are a kind of Rorschach test, a screen onto which people project their own ideas," says The Mystery of Lewis Carroll author Jenny Woolf.

Alice first got the big screen treatment in 1903 in a 12 minute silent version featuring rudimentary special effects of the hero changing sizes. Played by Mabel Clark, (who was also employed on the set as a "help-out girl," making costumes and running errands), the look of this traditional retelling closely resembles the book's original illustrations.

Out of print for many years, it's now available as a DVD extra on the recent reissue of the 1966 Alice starring Peter Sellers.

The Sellers version, a made-for-BBC television movie, is as mad as a hatter. Director Jonathan Miller sought to boil the production down to the essentials, to dispense with the "japing and game play" of earlier versions.

To that end none of the strange creatures Alice meets along the way are played by actors in animal costumes.



Author Jenny Woolf, who wrote The Mystery of Lewis Carroll, compared Alice in Wonderland to a rorschach Test, where people project their own ideas on to the classic tale.

"I am delighted with the film and am now convinced that only through the medium of the talking picture art could this delicious fantasy be faithfully interpreted."
Alice Liddell, the girl who inspired the Lewis Carroll book, upon seeing the 1933 film.

This approach could have fallen flat, but when you have actors like John Gielgud and Peter Cook accentuating the wonderful dialogue rather than the flashy production design, it works.

Add a trippy soundtrack by Ravi Shankar and some veiled drug references and you get a film that could only have been made at the height of the Swingin' Sixties.

It's hard to know what Alice Liddell, the young girl who inspired the movie would have thought of any of the wild and wacky versions of the story, but we do know she enjoyed the 1933 Paramount version.

"I am delighted with the film and am now convinced that only through the medium of the talking picture art could this delicious fantasy be faithfully interpreted," she told the New York Times.

"Alice is a picture which represents a revolution in cinema history!"

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

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The Last Station (14A) Fri-Wed 1:45-7:10 Thu 1:45
A Prophet (18A) Fri-Sat 12:50-4-7:30-10:30 Sun-Thu 12:50-4-7:30
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Mon 1:3:50-6:45-9:35 Tue 1:3:50-9:35 Wed-Thu 1:3:50-6:45-9:35
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The Last Station (14A) Fri 6:55-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:20-6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:40
Planet 51 (G) Mon-Thu 1:10-3:55
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri 6:50-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:50-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:25
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat 1:10-3:55-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30
A Single Man (PG) Fri 7:10 Sat-Wed 1:40-4:10-7:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Mon-Thu 1:30-4:05
Up in the Air (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:15-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 7-9:50

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri 9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 9:30
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Cop Out (14A) DTS Digital, No Passes Fri 7:15-10 DTS Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5:20-8
Shutter Island (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:45-3:50-7-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 5-8:15
Valentine's Day (PG) DTS Digital Fri 6:50-9:45 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1-4-6:50-9:45 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5:10-8:30

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

The Adjuster (STC) Sat 9:10
Cairo Time (STC) Wed 8:50
Canada's Top Ten Shorts 2009 Program 1 (STC) Sun 7
Canada's Top Ten Shorts 2009 Program 2 (STC) Sun 8:30
Defendor (PG) Fri 7
Kamal Aljafari (STC) Mon 7:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Passenger Side (STC) Fri 8:50
Ruthless (STC) Thu 9
Secret Beyond the Door (STC) Thu 7
The Trotsky (STC) Sat 7
The Wild Hunt (STC) Wed 7

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri 4-7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:20

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Last Train Home (STC) Fri 4-7-9 Sat-Sun 2-4-7-9 Mon-Thu 4-7-9

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

The Crazies (18A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
The Terminator (STC) Fri 12
Terminator 2: Judgment Day (STC) Fri 12

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Alice in Wonderland (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:30
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:15-1:2-4:4:45-7:7:30-9:50-10:20
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Wed 11:30-3:10-6:50-10:30 Thu 11:30-3:10-10:30
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:20-10:40
Dear John (PG) Fri 1:10-4-7:10-10 Sat-Sun 4-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 1:10-4-7:10-10
The Metropolitan Opera: Der Rosenkavalier Encore (STC) Sat 10
Oscar Nominated Short Films 2010 - Live Action & Animation Double Feature (STC) Sun 12
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:40
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:40-7:40-10:50
The Wolfman (18A) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:10-7:50-10:45 Wed 1:20-4:10-10:45 Thu 1:20-4:10-7:50-10:45

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

Cop Out (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-2:25-3:40-5:6:15-7:35-8:50-10:10
The Crazies (18A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:45-3:4:15-5:30-6:45-8-9:15-10:25 No Passes Wed 1:45-3:4:15-5:30-8-9:15-10:25 No Passes Thu 1:45-3:4:15-5:30-6:45-8-9:15-10:25
Frozen (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:45-5:05-7:55-10:15
The Ghost Writer (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-2:55-4:30-6:05-7:25-9:05-10:20
The Messenger (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:10-4:45-7:10-9:40
New York, I Love You (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 2:05-4:35-7:05-9:35 No Passes Wed 2:05-4:35-9:35 No Passes Thu 2:05-4:35-7:05-9:35
A Prophet (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-2:50-4:25-6:10-7:45-9:30
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Mon 1:20-4:10-9:50 Tue-Wed 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Thu 1:20-4:10-9:50

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

Annie Hall (STC) Tue 7:30
I Killed My Mother (STC) Fri 7 Sat 4-6:20-8:15 Sun-Mon 6:20-8:15 Wed-Thu 6:20-8:15
Neil Young Trunk Show (STC) Fri 9

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

Shutter Island (14A) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 4:20-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Alice in Wonderland (PG) No Passes Fri 6:45-7:15-9:30-9:50 No Passes Sat-Thu 12:45-1:15-3:45-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:30-9:50
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Mon-Thu 1:40-4
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri 7-10 Sat-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:10
Cop Out (14A) No Passes Fri 7:30-10:10 No Passes Sat-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:10
Shutter Island (14A) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:40
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 7:20-10:05 Sat-Sun 1-4-7:20-10:05 Mon-Wed 7:20-10:05 Thu 10:05

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 6:30-9:45 Sat-Thu 12:3:10-6:30-9:45
The Crazies (18A) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:10-10
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat 3:30-6:40-9:30 Sun 4:10-6:40-9:30 Mon-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:30 Thu 3:30-6:40-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Frozen (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Thu 12:10-3-7-9:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Der Rosenkavalier Encore (STC) Sat 10
Oscar Nominated Short Films 2010 - Live Action & Animation Double Feature (STC) Sun 12
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:40
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 6:45 Sat-Wed 12:20-3:20-6:45 Thu 3:20-6:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Wolfman (18A) Fri-Thu 9:50

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Alice in Wonderland (PG) No Passes Fri 4:30-7-9:35 No Passes Sat 1:25-4:30-7-9:35 No Passes Sun 1:25-4:30-7 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:30-7
Cop Out (14A) Fri 4:35-7:20-9:50 Sat 1:40-4:35-7:20-9:50 Sun 1:40-4:35-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:20
The Crazies (18A) Fri 4:25-7:15-9:45 Sat 1:35-4:25-7:15-9:45 Sun 1:35-4:25-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:15
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 4:15-6:55-9:40 Sat 1:20-4:15-6:55-9:40 Sun 1:20-4:15-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:15-6:55
Shutter Island (14A) Fri 4:10-7:05-10 Sat 1:15-4:10-7:05-10 Sun 1:15-4:10-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:05
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 4:20-7:10-9:55 Sat 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:55 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Alice in Wonderland (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:45-10 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:45-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:1:45-4:30-7:35-10:30
Alice in Wonderland: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 10:30-1:10-3:50-6:30-9:10-11:45 No Passes Sun-Thu 11:15-2-4:45-7:30-10:15
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11:15-3-6:45-10:30
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:45-7:30-10:45
Cop Out (14A) Fri-Wed 1-4-7-10:05 Thu 4-7-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Crazies (18A) Fri-Thu 11:55-4:30-7:35-10:30
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:10
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:25-7:25-10:25 Wed 1:15-4:25-10:25 Thu 1:15-4:25-7:25-10:25
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri 1:05-3:40-6:50-9:40 Sat 3:40-6:50-9:40 Sun-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:50-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Der Rosenkavalier Encore (STC) Sat 10
My Name Is Khan (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-4:20-8
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 12:4:15-7:20-10:20
Shutter Island (14A) Fri 11:45-12:45-3:05-3:55-6:35-7:15-9:50-10:40 Sat 12:45-3:05-3:55-6:35-7:15-9:50-10:40 Sun-Thu 11:45-12:45-3:05-3:55-6:35-7:15-9:50-10:40
To Save a Life (STC) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:25-6:55-9:55
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:35-6:30-9:20
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-3-7:05-10:15
When in Rome (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:10-7:40-10:35
The Wolfman (18A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:35-7:45-10:40

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Cop Out (14A) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:10
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11-11:30-1:35-2-4:15-4:40-7-7:30-9:40-10:15
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11:15-3-6:45-10:20
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45
Cop Out (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:40-9:30
The Crazies (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-7:25-10:25
Dear John (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:20-6:50-9:55 Wed-Thu 12:40-3:20-9:55
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:05-6:35-9:35
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-3:35-7:15-10:30
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:55-10:05

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

From Paris With Love (14A) Fri 4:15-7:15-10:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15-10:15
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 4-7-10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 4-7-10
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20-10:20
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
Vinnaithandi Varuvaay (STC) Fri 4:35-8:30 Sat-Sun 12:55-4:35-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:35-8:30
When in Rome (G) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:25 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25-10:25
The Wolfman (18A) Fri 4:05-7:05-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05-10:05

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Alice in Wonderland (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12-3-6:45-9:30 No Passes Sun 12-3-6:45-9:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 12-3-6:45-9:30 No Passes Wed 3:30-6:45-9:30 No Passes Thu 12-3-6:45-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 11:30-1:40-2:10-4:25-4:45-7:15-7:45-10:10-10:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 11-11:30-1:40-2:10-4:25-4:45-7:15-7:45-10:10-10:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 11:30-1:40-2:10-4:25-4:45-7:15-7:45-10:10-10:45
Avatar (14A) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10:05
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Tue 12-3:30-6:45-10:10 Wed 3:45-6:45-10:10 Thu 12-3:30-6:45-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-7:40-10:35
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:50-7:10-10:15
Cop Out (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:25-7:05-10:05
The Crazies (18A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-7:15-10:25
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:35-10:40
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:25-6:55-9:45
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:20-10:30
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Der Rosenkavalier Encore (STC) Sat 10
Oscar Nominated Short Films 2010 - Live Action & Animation Double Feature (STC) Sun 12
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:20-7:20-10:15
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:7:35-10:35
Shutter Island (14A) Fri 12-12:35-3:30-3:50-6:50-7:25-10:05-10:40 Sat 12-3:30-4:05-6:50-7:25-10:05-10:40 Mon-Thu 12-12:35-3:30-3:50-6:50-7:25-10:05-10:40
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:55
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:55-7:25-10:15
When in Rome (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:50-10:20
The Wolfman (18A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:10-6:50-9:40

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 7
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Sat-Thu 1:30
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15
The Spy Next Door (PG) Sat-Thu 3:20

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:30-4:30
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12-6:30
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 8:45
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:30-4:30
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 8:20
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Thu 2:30-4:30
The Wolfman (18A) Fri-Thu 6:30-8:40

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

Alice in Wonderland (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-10:45 No Passes Wed 5:30-8:15-10:45 No Passes Thu 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-2:15-5:7:45-10:30
Avatar (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-3:20-6:45-10:20
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7-10:10
Cop Out (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:40-7:25-10:15
The Crazies (18A) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:30-9:55
Karthik Calling Karthik (STC) Fri-Thu 9:30
My Name Is Khan (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:50-9
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:15-10
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-7:20-10:25
Sukhmani - Hope for Life (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:50-9:50
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-6:55
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-4:10-7:10-10:05 Wed 4:10-7:10-10:05 Thu 12:40-4:10-7:10-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-1:45-4-4:30-6:45-7:15-9:30-10
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:30-3:55
Avatar (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 2-7 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 2
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05
Cop Out (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:10
The Crazies (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2-4:40-7:20-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:20-9:55
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 12:55-3:40
My Name Is Khan (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Sun 1:10-4:35-8 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 8
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:40-9:40
Planet 51 (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:10-3:45
Shutter Island (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-2:15-4:15-6:30-7:30-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:45-4:15-6:30-7:30-9:45
Tooth Fairy (G) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:55

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The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:55-3:55-6:50-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50
The Wolfman (18A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:35

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criteriontheatres.com

Crazy Heart (PG) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:10
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterionthetres.com

Alice in Wonderland (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:15 No Passes Sat-Thu 2:10-7:10-9:15
Cop Out (14A) Fri 7:30-9:40 Sat-Thu 2:30-7:30-9:40
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 7:20-9:35 Sat-Thu 2:20-7:20-9:35
Shutter Island (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Thu 2-7-9:45

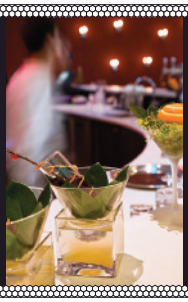
COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Alice in Wonderland (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3-6:45-9:40
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-12:30-2:30-3:30-5:15-7-8-10:10-10:45
Alice in Wonderland: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:30-1:10-3:50-6:30-9:10-11:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 11:15-2-4:45-7:30-10:15
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11:30-3:15-7:05-10:40
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 9:50
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri 12:20-3:45-7:45-10:40 Sat 3:45-7:45-10:40 Sun-Thu 12:20-3:45-7:45-10:40
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:40-7:10-10:30
Cop Out (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:40-7:10-10:20
The Crazies (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:20-10:10
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-4-6:55-9:45
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:45-6:55-9:55
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Sat 12:55-4:05-7:20-10:25 Sun 4:05-7:20-10:25 Mon-Thu 12:55-4:05-7:20-10:25
The Metropolitan Opera: Der Rosenkavalier Encore (STC) Sat 10
Oscar Nominated Short Films 2010 - Live Action & Animation Double Feature (STC) Sun 12
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Tue 12:35-4:10-7:25-10:20 Wed 12:05-7:25-10:20 Thu 12:35-4:10-7:25-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 11:50-12:40-3:35-4:05-7:7:30-10:15-10:45
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:55-6:50
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri-Sat 12:35-3:50-7:15-10:15 Sun 12:35-4:25-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:50-7:15-10:15
When in Rome (G) Fri-Tue 12:45-4:20-7:35-10:05 Wed 12:10-7:35-10:05 Thu 12:45-4:20-7:35-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Wolfman (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:25-7:40-10:35

TWILIGHT DRIVE-IN
260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley, 604-856-5063

The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Sun 7:30
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Sun 9:40
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Thu

EAT
EXPLORE GASTOWN
gastownblog.com



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Amazon.ca's bestselling albums
1. I Believe (Official CTV Olympic Song Enhanced), Nikki Yanofsky, right; 2. Recollection, K.D. Lang; 3. American VI: Ain't No Grave, Johnny Cash; 4. Soldier Of Love, Sade. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Clipse is currently touring and working on a new album.

Clipse don't take things personally

JASON RICHARDS
for Metro Canada

Don't expect The Clipse to battle Jay-Z anytime soon.

The Virginia-based rap duo isn't losing sleep over some lyrics on Jay-Z's last album that seem to be aimed their way.

"I don't get my panties in a bunch," Malice of the group says, discussing the track Thank You off The Blueprint 3. The lines in question seem to slyly reference The Clipse and their latest album, Til the Casket Drops.

But again, they're not sweating it. "I'm a Jay-Z fan," Malice says. "So I'm not worrying about any of that speculation that's not positive. We've been on tour with Jay-Z. He was gracious enough to have us go overseas with him. I don't take anything personal from it."

And even if Mr. Knowles-Carter was really trying to diss The Clipse, Malice can empathize.

"Sometimes you just come up with a great line and it doesn't matter at whose expense," he says. "It's just a great line."

Malice and his brother Pusha T know a thing or two about those. The group rose to prominence for using sharp wordplay to detail the drug-hustling life over hard Neptunes beats. They're currently coming up with their own latest great lines for a few new projects, including their fourth album (they've already hit the studio with Raekwon, Young Jeezy and Travis Barker), a mixtape, even a book. Malice's upcoming autobiography, Wretched, Pitiful, Poor, Blind and Naked, will describe the impact his rap career has had on the lives of his friends and family.

"I think it's an eye opener for anybody who aspires to get into this game, how it takes a strong mind and focus," he says. "You need to really question your motives as to why you want to be in this industry."

As for The Clipse, satisfying fans is their main priority. That much is clear from the way Malice talks about their performances.

"We're very passionate about our shows," he says. "When I see that fan's face, you know, singing along with me, and his eyes closing and his hands in the air, I'm like 'yeah I remember I felt like that when I wrote it!'"

Little Boots, big shoes

Dance pop songstress follows in Lady Gaga's footsteps

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

North America hasn't exactly been friendly to the dance pop genre in the last decade unless there has been a fresh-faced teen front and centre to exploit. Last year Lady Gaga became the exception to the rule, and now there's plenty of room on the charts for her to share.

Trying to crack this continent's fickle market has sent many defeated would-be pop stars back to Europe, a place where slick, synthesized pop has always been welcomed with open arms.

But if you ask Victoria Hesketh, a.k.a. Little Boots, what she thinks of her chances making it in America, she seems unfazed by the looming challenge.

"I'm not sure I will fit in with North American music," she admits. "But I think that with Gaga and Katy Perry breaking through it does seem that maybe America is getting more into pop so maybe it will work for me."

If Little Boots sounds confident that's because she knows the tide is turning. With Gaga's aforementioned success still growing and the rise of burgeoning stars like La Roux and Lights, the moment is now for her to shine.

On her debut album, Hands, Little Boots has found the perfect amalgam of dance pop's colourful history, touching on disco, '80s synth-pop and artists like Kylie Minogue and Goldfrapp, while building an identity of her own with the help of producers like Hot Chip's Joe Goddard and Gaga's guru RedOne.

Hesketh sees the recent wave of female solo artists playing synths to be both harmful and helpful to her career.

"It's kind of annoying because I think all of the girls the press puts together are very different and that's what's exciting about it," she says. "They can run all of these stories about girls in nice frocks playing keyboards. But I understand why they do it and I'm sure we've all gotten a lot more attention because of it."

Having previously fronted an indie band called Dead Disco and found buzz for Little Boots through indie-favouring blogs, Hesketh has already tasted pop stardom in the U.K. She's now hungry for more.

"I think being a solo artist really suits me and I never really cared about signing with an indie label or anything," she says. "I'm not into being an indie artist. I really just like pop music and see myself as more of a pop songwriter. On the album, I just really wrote what I felt was right to me."

On her debut album, Hands, Little Boots has found the perfect amalgam of dance pop's colourful history, touching on disco and '80s synth-pop while building an identity of her own.

"I'm not into being an indie artist. I really just like pop music and see myself as more of a pop songwriter." Little Boots

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The Billboard 200

1. Soldier of Love, Sade; 2. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum; 3. American VI: Ain't No Grave, Johnny Cash; 4. The E.N.D., The Black Eyed Peas; 5. The Fame, Lady Gaga. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

Entertainment in brief

CHARTS The following is HMV Canada's top CDs based on national sales.

1. I Believe - Nikki Yanofsky
2. Recollection - k.d. lang
3. Soldier of Love - Sade
4. The E.N.D. - The Black Eyed Peas
5. Need You Now - Lady Antebellum **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Nickelback's success has helped U.S.-based Roadrunner Records back numerous heavy metal acts.

Defending Nickelback

Success of Canadian rockers helps support other acts

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

So the pickle won. Good for the pickle. To recap: Last month, there was a Facebook campaign spearheaded by someone named Coral Anne to see if a lowly, anonymous dill could attract more Facebook friends than Nickelback.

The "Can this pickle get more fans than Nickleback (sic)?" crusade became something of an Internet sensation and blew past Nickelback's 1.4 million friends in rather short order. Everyone from Rolling Stone and MTV to U.K. newspapers picked up on the story.

Given the nature of Internet memes and the hate so many people seem to have for Nickelback, the pickle's victory wasn't much of a surprise. But before lest lovers of cured cucumbers get too smug over their victory, remember this: We will always need bands like Nickelback. And here's why.

First, Nickelback sells more records than just about any other rock band these days. The Dark Horse album has sold 420,000 copies in Canada and another 2.6 million in the U.S. Overall, they've sold 2.5 million records in Canada, 20 million in America and 30 million worldwide. They gross in the region of $100 million in concert ticket sales each year. In other words, it's pretty clear that someone must like them.

Second, consider the economic spinoff. In U.S., Nickelback is signed to Roadrunner, a label that specializes mainly in heavy music — metal, especially.

If you're a fan of metal — Rob Zombie, CKY, Killswitch Engage, Airbourne, Trivium — you have Roadrunner to thank. Great groups with solid cred with metal fans, but none of them sell records in tremendous numbers. Therefore, their careers — their very existence — needs to be subsidized by the profits generated by the few big bands on Roadrunner that consistently turn a profit. This includes Slipknot, Megadeth — and Nickelback.

This means that metal fans should want Nickelback to sell as many records as possible so that Roadrunner can help keep bands like Cradle of Filth, Opeth and Hatebreed in business.

There's also an important Canadian connection here. Are you a fan of Billy Talent and Alexisonfire? Want them to do well in America? Then root for Nickelback because both bands are signed to Roadrunner in the U.S. Nickelback profits are being used to support both bands in their quest for continentwide success.

This doesn't mean you have to like Nickelback. But they do play an important part in the whole ecosystem of metal.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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AN INTERNAL ORGAN CONTAINING 4.

Watch JEOPARDY! tonight at 7:30 for the answer.
Following Wheel of Fortune at 7pm
Yesterdays answer: Who are Olivia Newton-John & John Travolta.
CBC

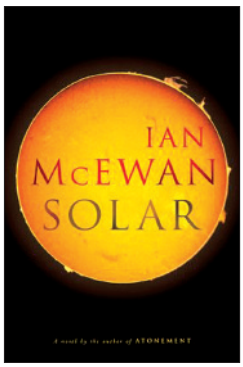
Lundstrom opens consulting company
Fashion designer Linda Lundstrom has bid adieu to her eponymous fashion brand as she embarks on a new career path. The longtime Canadian designer has launched Linda Lundstrom Works, a new consulting company. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Solar by Ian McEwan

BOOK In his latest work, the Booker Prize-winning author finds some uncharacteristic comic relief in the serious subject of climate change. The novel revolves around a philandering physicist who by a remarkable turn of events gets to salvage both his own life and the world.



2 82nd Annual Academy Awards

SHOW This year's Academy Awards is shaping up to be a battle between James Cameron's Avatar and Kathryn Bigelow's The Hurt Locker. The whole producer-email affair is not helping the indie film's cause but the backstage drama will make for a nailbiting show. The Oscars airs Sunday on CTV at 8 p.m. E.T.

3 Plastic Beach: Gorillaz

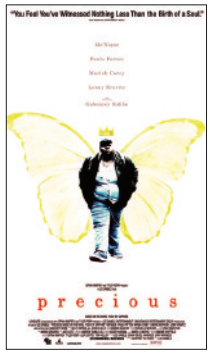
ALBUM Damon Albarn may be a Blur to most North Americans, but his cartoon alter-egos have been making mega hits this side of the Atlantic over the past decade. The animated band returns with its third album — an irreverent meditation on our environmental follies. Lead single Stylo, with a video featuring Bruce Willis, is already a web smash. Rest of the album sounds great too.

4 Alice in Wonderland

FILM Feed your head (and imagination) this week with Hollywood oddball Tim Burton's version of Lewis Carroll's classic tale. Alice is a sprightly teen in this 3-D take and, as we all know by now, Johnny Depp plays The Mad Hatter. Avoid the call of the rabbit hole on your own peril.

5 Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire

DVD A young, illiterate and obese black girl's harrowing journey through abusive home life has picked up plenty of awards and accolades over the last few months. Gabourey Sidibe is spectacular as the titular teen but the much-maligned Mo'nique is a revelation as her mom from hell. Expect an Oscar for her on Sunday.



6 This Too Shall Pass: OK Go

VIDEO Here they go again. After breaking into the world of viral videos and music four years ago, the Chicago-based band is back with another piece of catchy tune-and-filmmaking. This time, they hired engineers to build a huge Rube Goldberg machine whose continuous action syncs with the song. Watch it at youtube.com/watch?v=qybUFnY7Y8w

7 Battlefield: Bad Company 2

GAME More wars, more weapons, more shootouts. If you like to charge down enemy lines in a blaze of glory, this new Xbox title puts you in good company.

Mix of Six

Power of Movement
When: Sunday, 11 a.m.
Where: Heritage Hall
Mega-sessions of yoga are being held all across Canada to raise money for arthritis research. powerofmovement.ca.

Chutzpah Festival
When: opening weekend
Where: Various locations
Showcasing Jewish performing arts from around the world, ranging from beat boxing to contemporary dance.

Sport And Inclusion
When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
Former Olympian Waneek Horn-Miller discusses how Aboriginals participate and are included within the Olympic Games.

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Commodore Ballroom
Blues and garage rockers hit the stage before the North American release of their album Beat The Devil's Tattoo. Tix: $33.

Oscar Wrap Party
When: Sunday, 5 p.m.
Where: Players Chophouse
Watch the Academy Awards on one of 14 screens with local film industry celebrities and VIPs. Info: ftxevents.com.

Snoop Dogg
When: Sunday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Commodore Ballroom
The rapper and actor is promoting his 10th studio album, Malice In Wonderland.

Hulu may start charging fees for some videos

Hulu's days as a free online video site could be ending soon.

Comedy Central's decision to yank two of the most popular shows on Hulu — The Daily Show and The Colbert Report — in a dispute over splitting ad revenue is the latest blow to the entertainment industry's attempts to make money off ads that run with free video.

Yet Hulu's most viable alternative — charging for access to some videos — could turn off viewers and crimp the site's explosive growth. Ultimately, the remedy to Hulu's current troubles could leave the site even worse off, a poor shadow of its former self.

Many viewers are drawn to Hulu because of its ease of use, not because they couldn't get much of the same content elsewhere. Hulu's videos simply aren't exclusive enough — compared with, say, Time Warner Inc.'s premium HBO cable channel.

If Hulu charges for a TV show or movie, the viewer could simply watch it over the air live, be more consistent about recording it to view later or catch the program for free through a video-on-demand service offered by cable TV and other providers.

"There are very few people who would be willing to pay for it," said Bruce Leichtman, president of the Leichtman Research Group Inc. in Durham, N.H.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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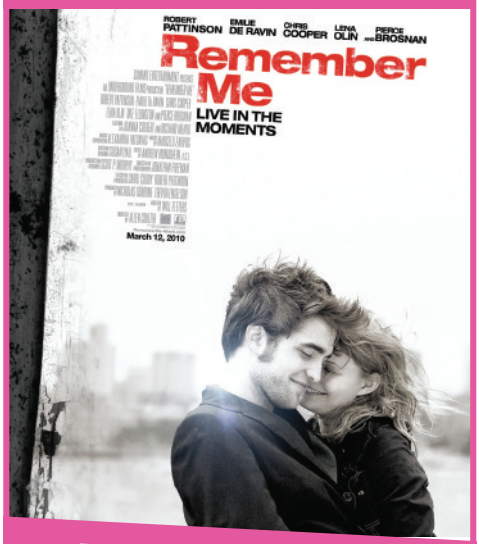

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Palin shopping TV show

According to a report from EW.com, Sarah Palin is teaming with Mark Burnett to shop a new TV docudrama about Alaska. POPEATER.CA

Television

Toronto cop inspires drama

In the new cop series The Bridge, debuting Friday on CTV and CBS, Aaron Douglas plays a tough police officer turned union head battling top brass and an "old boys' network" as he cleans up the force.

Though the storylines are inspired by the insights of outspoken former Toronto police union head Craig Bromell, the events and characters are purely fictional, he insists.

"My life with the union is very well documented — it's in the public, there's no way around it — so I wanted ... a fictional side to this primarily because it's an international story," Bromell, an executive producer and adviser on the show, said in a recent interview.

The Bridge airs Friday night on CTV

"That's what I was trying to get out more than anything is: 'Yeah, I've lived a certain situation, I was quite prominent in law enforcement in this country, but these stories could happen anywhere."'

Bromell became president of the Toronto Police Association in 1997 at age 37, after a lengthy career on the force. He left his post in 2003 and went on to do a radio show in the city.

The series title is inspired by a bridge that separates two Toronto neighbourhoods — one wealthy and one low-income — that Bromell's unit patrolled when he was an officer.

Aaron Douglas, a Vancouver native, signed on as the lead, Frank Leo, right after the conclusion of his last series, the heralded sci-fi drama Battlestar Galactica. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRIDAY 3/5/10 primetime

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
news	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		The Bridge Frank organizes a walkout strike. (CC)				CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	X-Weighted "Daniel" (CC)		Shark Tank (CC)		NUMB3RS "Growin' Up" (N)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N)	Captive Hearts ★★ (1987, Romance) Pat Morita. (CC)				Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Murdoch Mysteries "Power"		Who Do You Think You Are?		Supernanny (N) (CC)		Murdoch Mysteries		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smallville "Rabid" (CC)		Smallville "Roulette" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Medium Allison is mugged.		NUMB3RS "Growin' Up" (N)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Who Do You Think You Are?		Dateline NBC A woman works to free her husband. (N)				KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Supernanny (N) (CC)		20/20 "Dead Man Walking"		20/20 "Hollywood Burglars"		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	House "The Down Low" (PA)		Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
	502	390	28 NW	Love, Hate and Propaganda		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Love, Hate and Propaganda		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	NHL Hockey		Sportsnet	Canucks TV	UFC: Access	MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	Hockey	SportsCentre	Off-Record	Boxing		Boxing		SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Hairspray ★★★ (2007) John Travolta, Nikki Blonsky. Premiere. (CC)				Grease ★★★ (1978, Musical) John Travolta. (CC)				
family	555	545	50 TEL	Batman	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	Superman: Brainiac Attacks (2006, Action)		
	268	354	5 KNO	In the Shadow of the Chief		Poirot "The Chocolate Box"		Dalziel and Pascoe (CC)		Elizabeth Smart: Angels		Hands
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	CMT Greatest: Hair Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Jim
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Four Weddings (N) (CC)		What Not to Wear "Annie"		Four Weddings (CC)		What Not to Wear "Sunny"		Weddings
	616	522	35 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		Tell Me No Lies (2007) Kelly Rutherford, Kirsten Prout. (CC)				Kenny vs.	Kenny	Trailer Park
	294	650	47 TBS	Nutty Professor II: The Klumps ★★ (2000) Eddie Murphy.				(:10) Sister Act ★★ (1992) Whoopi Goldberg. (CC)				Father
	603	561	52 FN	Diners	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Diners	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners
	-	-	53 AMC	Silence	12 Monkeys ★★★ (1995) Bruce Willis. A time-traveler winds up in a mental institution.						The French Connection (CC)	
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:20) Yes Man ★★ (2008)		(:05) Observe and Report ★★ (2009) (CC)			Mamma Mia! ★★ (2008) Meryl Streep, Colin Firth. (CC)			
	581	566	101 MTV	16 and Pregnant "Valerie"		1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	Buried	Buried	16 and Pregnant "Valerie"		1 girl 5 gays

SATURDAY 3/6/10 primetime

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
news	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at Los Angeles Kings. (Live) (CC)					HNIC: After Hours		News	HNIC Replay
	250	321	9 CTV	W5 (N) (CC) (DVS)		Law & Order "Reality Bites"		The Bridge Frank organizes a walkout strike.				CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	renegade	Jane Show	A Woman's Rage (2008) Brandy Ledford. Premiere. (CC)				Love-Death	G-Spot (CC)	News Final
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Kool Countdown (CC)		The Road to Avonlea		Stargate Atlantis		Bravo!FACT
	253	359	13 CITY	Cooking	Amazing	Glenn Martin	Out There	Butterfly on a Wheel (2007) Pierce Brosnan. (CC) (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Hellboy ★★★ (2004, Fantasy) Ron Perlman, John Hurt, Selma Blair.					CSI: NY "The Ride-In" (CC)	
	289	381	15 CBS	Paid Program	Paid Program	NCIS Citywide blackout.		CSI: Miami "Point of Impact"		48 Hours Mystery (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	Parenthood "Pilot" (CC)		Law & Order "Reality Bites"		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy!	20/20 (CC)		Oprah Winfrey		Castle "Deep in Death"		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Wanda Sykes
	502	390	28 NW	Princesses of the World (N)		National	Issue	National	Mansbridge	Princesses of the World		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		CNN Presents "Scream Bloody Murder" Genocide. (CC)				Newsroom		Presents
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Boxing Ryan Henney vs. Frank White, Cruiserweights.				The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) SportsCentre (CC)		Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show Opening Night. (Taped)						SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	iCarly (CC)	iCarly (CC)	Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
family	555	545	50 TEL	Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace ★★ (1999) Liam Neeson. Premiere.						Chicken	Futurama	King of Hill
	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic (CC)		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders "Small Mercies" (N) (CC)				Smart
	575	583	20 CMT	Taylor Swift: One on One		The Show	Talkin' 'Bout	Gilmore Girls (CC)		Gilmore Girls (CC)		Cheerleaders
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Chip/Tuck"		CSI: Miami "Power Trip"		(:01) CSI: Miami (CC)		(:01) CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34 TLC	What Not to Wear "Chelsea"		What Not to Wear "Leanne"		What Not to Wear "Teresa"		What Not to Wear "Chelsea"		Not to Wear
	616	522	35 SHO	Slings and Arrows (CC)		Lava Storm (2008, Suspense) Valérie Valois. (CC)				I Am Legend ★★★ (2007) Will Smith. (CC)		
	294	650	47 TBS	Legally Blonde ★★ (2001) Reese Witherspoon. (CC)				(:05) Mean Girls ★★★ (2004) Lindsay Lohan. (CC)				Legally Bl
	603	561	52 FN	Top Chef Masters (CC)		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		River Cott		Chopped "In a Pinch" (CC)		Top Chef
	-	-	53 AMC	(5:00) The Godfather, Part II ★★★★ (1974) Al Pacino. (CC)					The Godfather ★★★★ (1972) Marlon Brando. (CC)			
	320	621	60 CEN	(5:25) The Dark Knight (2008)		Ghosts of Girlfriends Past ★★ (2009)			(:40) How to Rob a Bank ★ (2007) (CC)			Passchend
	581	566	101 MTV	MTV Live	Movie Night	Sex News	1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	1 girl 5 gays

SUNDAY 3/7/10 primetime

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
news	251	308	3 CBC	Heartland (N) (CC) (DVS)		Marple: They Do It With Mirrors (2009) Julia McKenzie.				CBC News: The National		News
	250	321	9 CTV	(5:30) The 82nd Annual Academy Awards			The Amazing Race 16 (N)		The Vampire Diaries (CC)		Old Christine	CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	16:9-Picture	Simpsons	Simpsons	The Barbara Walters Special		Family Guy	Family Guy	Amer Dad	News Final
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (N) (CC)		Gossip Girl (CC)		Undercover Boss "7-Eleven"		Nip/Tuck "Alexis Stone"		New Canoe
	253	359	13 CITY	Survivorman (CC) (DVS)		Man Tracker (CC) (DVS)		Murdoch Mysteries		Hot Toxic Love		Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	Boston Legal "Smile" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Tunnel Vision"		CSI: NY (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 16 (N)		Undercover Boss "7-Eleven"		Cold Case "Soul" (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Dateline NBC (CC)			Bad Boys II ★★ (2003, Action) (PA) Martin Lawrence, Will Smith. (CC)					KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	(5:30) The 82nd Annual Academy Awards			The Barbara Walters Special		On the Red Carpet at the Oscars (CC)			News
	290	382	23 FOX	'Til Death (N)	'Til Death (N)	Simpsons	Simpsons	Family Guy	Family Guy	News	Sports	House (CC)
	502	390	28 NW	CannaBiz (CC)		Geologic Journey (CC)		CBC News: The National		Super Size Me ★★★ (2004) (CC)		
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom		State/Union
sports	407	419	22 RSP	To Be Announced				The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) SportsCentre (CC)		Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show Closing Night. (Taped)						SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	(6:30) Hairspray ★★★ (2007) John Travolta. (CC)				Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
family	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Futurama	Tripping-Rift
	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		The Royal (N) (CC)		Prime Suspect The case of a child-molester. (N) (CC)				Empire-Word
	575	583	20 CMT	UnStable	UnStable	Star Crossed	Star Crossed	Best of CMT Music Awards				UnStable
	615	520	31 A&E	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Dog	Dog	Dog	Dog	Exterminator
	521	560	34 TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours
	616	522	35 SHO	Cra$h & Burn "Trust" (CC)		Ogre (2008, Fantasy) John Schneider, Ryan Kennedy. (CC)				Damages (N) (CC)		Cra$h & Burn
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:48) Old School ★★ (2003) Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell. (CC)				(8:48) American Wedding ★★ (2003) Jason Biggs. (CC)				Eurotrip ★★
	603	561	52 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Jamie's Chef (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner
	-	-	53 AMC	(5:00) GoodFellas ★★★★		The Untouchables ★★★★ (1987) Kevin Costner, Sean Connery. (CC)					The Silence of the Lambs	
	320	621	60 CEN	Benjamin Button		The Taking of Pelham 123 ★★ (2009) Denzel Washington.				(9:50) Forgetting Sarah Marshall ★★★		
	581	566	101 MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	Movie Night	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	1 girl 5 gays

Lowe's new role

Rob Lowe will join the cast of Parks and Recreation starting with the second-to-last episode of the season as a "powerful person entering our world from the outside," executive producer Michael Schur told Fancast. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

New miniseries bands together

Band of Brothers producers take on the Second World War in TV series The Pacific

The United States' National World War II Museum rolled out the red carpet this week for Tom Hanks and the stars of a new HBO miniseries set during that war.

Hanks is an executive producer of The Pacific, a 10-part miniseries that follows three U.S. Marines fighting in the Pacific Theater during the Second World War.

Hanks joined the miniseries' stars — James Badge Dale, Jon Seda and Joe Mazzello — for a screening of the first episode at the city's convention centre, followed by a reception at the New Orleans museum.

Hanks also teamed up with The Pacific executive producers Steven Spielberg and Gary Goetzman on HBO's Band of Brothers, a 2001 miniseries set in Europe during the Second World War.

The Pacific airs on HBO March 14

The Pacific, which debuts on HBO on March 14, depicts some of the war's bloodiest battles, including Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Dale, Seda and Mazzello each play real-life men who fought in the Pacific campaign.

"There are three main characters that we follow, so therefore we got to be even more personal than we were in Band of Brothers," Hanks said while on the red carpet inside the convention centre.

"So in a weird way by focusing on less characters by number, we were able to expand the scope."

Before the 10-month shoot started in Australia, the cast endured a grueling 10-day "boot camp" under the direction of Dale Dye, an actor and military advisor whose screen credits include Saving Private Ryan.

They also met with relatives of the men they portrayed and veterans who fought in the battles portrayed in the miniseries.

"These are the guys we're doing it for," said Dale, who plays the late Robert Leckie.

"This is their story. These are the men who have been there."

Mazzello, who plays the late Eugene Sledge, said his grandfather fought in the Pacific, and died during the miniseries' filming.

"Before he died, he got to know that I was going to be doing this and I was going to be honouring men like him," he said.

"We're just trying to keep in line with what they started, which was to honour all the men on both sides, from the Pacific to Europe, and honour the density and wetness of the jungle.

"War movies are never accurate to war veterans but I think this is maybe the best one I've seen so far," Phillips said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"War movies are never accurate to war veterans but I think this is maybe the best one I've seen so far."
Veteran Sid Phillips,85, from Mobile, Alabama, who is portrayed in The Pacific

AP PHOTO/CHERYL GERBER

Tom Hanks, executive producer, talks to reporters at the red carpet premiere of the new HBO miniseries The Pacific in New Orleans, Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Sid Phillips, 85, of Mobile, Alabama, who is portrayed by Ashton Holmes in the miniseries, was 17 years old when he fought on Guadalcanal.

He said he was struck by how the miniseries cap-

Walters last dance with Oscar

Hollywood Votes
Academy Awards

INTERVIEWS Barbara Walters says her last Oscars television special will be her best.

Walters will sit down with actresses Sandra Bullock and Mo'Nique, both nominated for Academy Awards. Bullock is up for Best Actress for The Blind Side, and Mo'Nique is nominated for Best Supporting Actress for Precious.

Walters said she believes both will win.

By bidding adieu, Walters is ending a 29-year-old tradition of talking to celebrities on Hollywood's biggest night.

It wasn't until 1988, though, that she began interviewing nominees.

"For the first seven years we were not allowed to interview any of the nominees because the (Academy

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Barbara Walters

of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) thought it would interfere with their Oscar special," Walters said.

That year she sat down with Glenn Close and Cher, who were contenders for Best Actress. Cher ended up taking the award for her role in Moonstruck.

While Walters, 80, is known for getting stars to open up and often tear up on camera, she says the celebrity interview has become less special in recent years and many stars are overexposed.

Just because Walters is stopping her Oscars special doesn't mean she's done with TV.

"I am not retiring!" she insists. "I will still be doing the 10 most fascinating people, I will still be on The View, which I love.

"I will still be doing pieces for ABC News."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"While Walters, 80, is known for getting stars to open up and often tear up on camera, she says the celebrity interview has become less special in recent years and many stars are overexposed."

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Cookie Fudge

PREP TIME: 15 MIN. + REFRIGERATING
➤ MAKES: 25 SERVINGS

What You Need

1 pkg. (8 squares) *Baker's* Semi-Sweet Chocolate

1 can (300 mL) sweetened condensed milk

2 tsp. vanilla

10 *Oreo* Cookies, chopped

Make it

MICROWAVE chocolate and condensed milk in large microwaveable bowl on MEDIUM 2 to 3 min. or until chocolate is almost melted, stirring after each minute. Add vanilla; mix well. Stir in chopped cookies.

LINE 8-inch square pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides. Spread chocolate mixture into pan.

REFRIGERATE 2 hours or until firm. Use foil handles to lift fudge from pan before cutting into 1-inch squares.

THIS WEEK ON THE SHOW – COOKING WITH KIDS ➤ whatscookingtv.com

Survives hazardous surgery
Burt Reynolds, 74, is resting at home after undergoing quintuple bypass surgery last week at a Florida hospital, Entertainment Tonight is reporting. He is currently under 24-hour nursing care, popeater.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Putting away the clubs

AND BRINGING ON THE HUGS Elin Nordegren has reportedly called a truce with Tiger Woods and has agreed to move back into their Florida home, according to Radar Online. Since Woods' philandering went public, Nordegren has been renting another house nearby. The embattled couple were spotted reconciling at Woods' house recently.

"They were in the backyard," a source tells the website. "Tiger kissed Elin on the cheek three times and they hugged."

Also, Woods' caddie claims he's "mad" at his boss — and wants everyone to know that he didn't have a damn thing to do with Tiger's cheating ways, TMZ.com reports.

Steve Williams — Wood's caddie for 11 years — told New Zealand's 60 Minutes that the scandal has "been the most difficult time of my life, no two ways about it, because every single person believed that I should know or did know or had something to do with it."

Williams added, "I knew nothing, that's my answer. I don't have to clarify or extend that answer, I knew nothing."

In fact, Williams claims he would have blown the whistle had he known what Woods was up to. Williams told the show that he's still furious with Tiger, saying, "Of course I'm mad at him, why would you not be? I'm close with his wife and he's got two lovely children."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bet he'd like to cut her wire

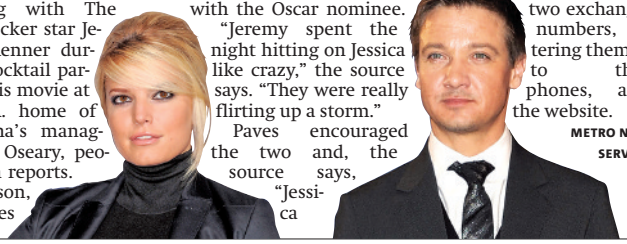
TOPIC OF CONVERSATION: HOW AWESOME AVATAR IS Jessica Simpson was spotted chatting with The Hurt Locker star Jeremy Renner during a cocktail party for his movie at the L.A. home of Madonna's manager Guy Oseary, people.com reports.

Simpson, who lives next door, arrived with hairdresser Ken Paves. But she spent most of her time with the Oscar nominee.

"Jeremy spent the night hitting on Jessica like crazy," the source says. "They were really flirting up a storm."

Paves encouraged the two and, the source says, "Jessica loved it!"

When the party was over, the two exchanged numbers, entering them into their phones, adds the website.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taking care of family business

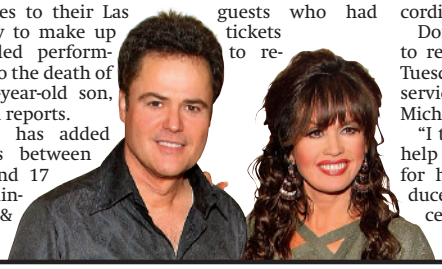
IS THIS ADMIRABLE OR JUST PLAIN CRAZY? Donny and Marie Osmond have added several dates to their Las Vegas show to make up for cancelled performances due to the death of Marie's 18-year-old son, people.com reports.

The duo has added five shows between April 13 and 17 at the Flamingo Hotel & Casino.

"These were previously unscheduled show dates, added to accommodate guests who had tickets to recently cancelled shows due to the personal tragedy in the Osmond family," according to a press release.

Donny and Marie are set to return to the stage on Tuesday following funeral services for her son, Michael Bryan.

"I think performing will help the healing process for her," the show's producer, Chip Lightman, recently told People.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

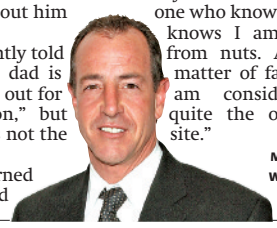
Airing your dirty laundry

STEP ONE TO GAINING THE TRUST OF YOUR CHILD Michael Lohan isn't thrilled with the things daughter Lindsay Lohan has been saying about him in the press.

The actress recently told OK! Magazine her dad is "nuts" and "crying out for help and attention," but Michael says that's not the case.

"Is being concerned for your child and doing all you can, first privately, then publicly, nuts?" Michael asked Hollyscoop.

"Anyone and everyone who knows me knows I am far from nuts. As a matter of fact, I am considered quite the opposite."



METRO WORLD NEWS

McSteamy to McDaddy

LET'S HOPE HE'S BETTER THAN THE ONE ABOVE HIM Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane and Rebecca Gayheart are now the proud parents of a baby girl, after the actress gave birth in Los Angeles Wednesday afternoon, according to Hollyscoop.

"They're both over the moon about it," a source says.

Dane recently talked about welcoming a daughter, saying, "It just makes sense that I'm having a girl. I don't know what it is, but I am excited it's a girl."

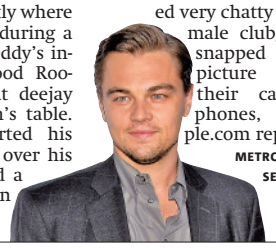
METRO WORLD NEWS

A man with a mission

A SPOT BESIDE ONE ÜBER-COOL SIBLING Leonardo DiCaprio knew exactly where he wanted to sit during a recent night at Teddy's inside the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel — at deejay Samantha Ronson's table.

The actor sported his baseball cap, low over his eyes, and grabbed a seat in between three ladies.

The Shutter Island star was handed drinks and acted very chatty as female clubgoers snapped his picture with their camera phones, people.com reports.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

It is a film about blue people

I MEAN, HE MUST HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOUR Who knew that James Cameron was such a good sport?

The Avatar director says that he has no problem with skits poking fun at his kinda-sorta-successful movie this year at the Oscars, despite a story yesterday claiming Oscar producers yanked a Sacha Baron Cohen skit out of fear of upsetting Cameron.

"If they want to poke fun at Avatar Sunday, that's OK by me," Cameron told E! Online. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

DEMI MOORE is bragging about speaking at the U.N., **JOE JONAS** is a Bond fan, **MINDY KALING** discovers life's wonderful secrets, and **J.K. ROWLING** is sorry she can't tweet more often.

@mrskutcher Having to stand up and speak in front of a crowd always scary but to do so right before Bill Clinton was a bit nerve wracking !

@joejonas Happy Birthday Daniel Craig. Thank you for 41 years of you being you.

@MindyKaling um, there's a secret 5-star restaurant at Disney above Pirates of the Caribbean where you can drink? @iamdiddy did you know about this?

@jk_rowling This is the real me, but you won't be hearing from me often I am afraid, as pen and paper is my priority at the moment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

One hairy situation

NO RAZOR BURN Oscar nominee Mo'Nique is happy being hairy. After she showed off her unshaven legs at the Golden Globes, the actress says she has no plans to change her grooming habits, usmagazine.com reports.

"I tried shaving one time, and it was so uncomfortable and painful," she says. "I said never again would I do that to myself. I'm 42, and I'm very hairy."

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Saturday Sunny 10° / 4°
Sunday Rain 80% 7° / 3°
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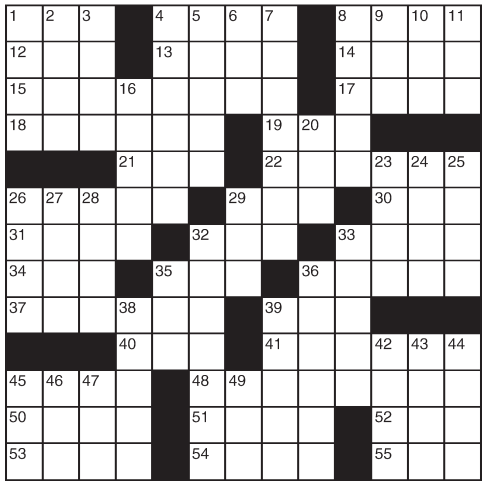
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

4		6				9		2
	5		1		3		8	
8			9		4			5
		2	3		1	7		
		7	5		2	8		
2			8		9			3
	1		2		7		9	
3		8				4		7

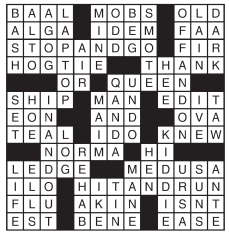
ACROSS

1 Miss Piggy's pronoun
4 Second-year student
8 Entreat
12 Rowing need
13 Actress Spelling
14 Obey reveille
15 Unreservedly
17 "My bad"
18 Soda shoppe treat
19 Chick's mama
21 On in years
22 Stymie
26 Leaves out
29 Proscribe
30 Peculiar
31 Bart's sister
32 Director's cry
33 Disposition
34 Barn resident
35 Comedian
36 Abdomen
37 Cravat accessory
39 Drunkard
40 "I" trouble
41 Consecrate with oil
45 Stretched to the limit
48 Trivial funds
50 Winnow
51 "Do — others ..."
52 Upper bound
53 Tactic
54 Card game for three
55 Mimic

DOWN

1 Takes blades to blades
2 Honolulu's home
3 Unyielding
4 Plagiarizes
5 Reacted to fireworks
6 Expert
7 Snobbish
8 Tine
9 "Flying Down to —"
10 Venomous viper
11 "Undeniably"
16 Parkinson's medication
20 Many millennia
23 Implement
24 Pedestal occupant
25 Vortex
26 Coin aperture
27 New Zealand bird
28 Capri, e.g.
29 Annoy
32 Big star in Carina
33 Tagalong's remark
35 Peruke
36 Witticism
38 Insignificant
39 Annual visitor
42 Bygone Peruvian
43 Kind of tide
44 Work at the keyboard
45 Recipe meas.
46 Be under the weather
47 Extraterrestrial's transportation
49 Squid squirt

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



4	7	9	6	8	1	3	2	5
1	5	6	3	2	7	9	8	4
2	3	8	4	9	5	7	1	6
3	8	5	1	7	4	2	6	9
6	9	1	8	5	2	4	7	3
7	2	4	9	6	3	8	5	1
8	4	3	2	1	6	5	9	7
9	1	7	5	3	8	6	4	2
5	6	2	7	4	9	1	3	8

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Hot and Spicy Pepper, Rice and Beans

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 ml) canola oil
1 large onion, chopped
1 red pepper, chopped
2 large garlic cloves, crushed
1 red chili pepper, seeded and chopped
5 oz (150 g) chorizo, or spicy cured sausage, cubed
1 1/3 cups (325 ml) basmati rice, rinsed
14 oz (398 ml) can coconut milk
2 1/2 cups (600 ml) boiling chicken stock
2 sprigs of fresh thyme, plus extra to garnish
1 bay leaf
14 oz (398 ml) can black-eyed peas, drained

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large, heavy-based pot, and cook onion, pepper, garlic and chili pepper 5 minutes or until just softened.
2. Add cubed sausage, then rice, and stir-fry 1-2 minutes. Pour in coconut milk and stock. Season and bring to boil. Stir in herbs, then cover and simmer 10 minutes.
3. Stir in beans and cook 5 minutes or until rice is tender and beans heated through. Serve, sprinkled with little thyme. **SERVES 4**

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The Sun in Pisces is not the easiest of influences to deal with, especially as it makes you believe there is something strange going on.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Your prospects will improve dramatically early next week. Before then you must make it your No. 1 aim to rid your life of anything that no longer fits.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You seem to believe that something of vital importance is about to be taken away from you.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Make the most of cosmic activity in your fellow Water sign of Pisces to get things done. It does not matter what you do so long as you do something.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You may be in need of a rest but you are unlikely to get it – there is far too much going on in your immediate environment.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Everything happens for a reason, so don't waste time wondering why a certain situation worked out the way it did, just make the best of it.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
As a cardinal sign you no doubt have high expectations of yourself, but sometimes it is better to sit back and let fate take its course rather than try too hard.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may be amused by a friend's antics but don't let it show. Others may not see the funny side.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You know something good is going to happen but you want it to happen now, not later. Try to be patient.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
There is no need to disguise your feelings or pretend to be something you are not. Express yourself openly over the next 24 hours.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
If you keep your eyes and ears open today you will discover something that benefits you in ways you can hardly imagine.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If your daily routine is in a rut, if things that used to inspire you now bore you, it may be time for a change. Start something new today.

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Boston	from $499 + taxes & fees $123
Hong Kong	from $629 + taxes & fees $185
Lima	from $699 + taxes & fees $225
Bangkok	from $867 + taxes & fees $310
Santiago	from $869 + taxes & fees $257
Sydney	from $869 + taxes & fees $539

Sun Airfares

Cancun
from $285
+ taxes & fees $280

Puerto Vallarta	from $205 + taxes & fees $280
Ixtapa	from $299 + taxes & fees $267
Miami	from $319 + taxes & fees $114
Honolulu	from $358 + taxes & fees $102
Los Cabos	from $375 + taxes & fees $280
Maui	from $398 + taxes & fees $102
Costa Rica	from $749 + taxes & fees $230

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Western Caribbean
7-Night Cruise — from $689 + taxes & fees $137

CRUISE in a balcony cabin roundtrip Miami and visit Roatan, Belize City, Grand Cayman & Cozumel.

Alaska 10-Night Cruise Tour — from $899^ + taxes & fees $121^

INCLUDES 7-night cruise and total of 3 nights post-cruise accom including rail and coach transfers. CRUISE from Vancouver to Whittier and visit Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, Glacier Bay and College Fjord.

Europe Sale!

Save up to 25%*

Airfares, hotels, coach tours, cruises and rail passes to your favourite Europe destinations are on sale now.

Vacation Offers

Receive a $50* Discount Voucher
to use on an escorted tour when you purchase any European airfare with Flight Centre.

Save up to $550* per person when booking Globus, Cosmos or Avalon vacation.

Save up to $400* per couple when booking a Back-Roads Tour.

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Save up to $200* per couple when booking a Insight Vacations Tour.

Save up to $200* per couple when booking a Trafalgar Tour.

Save up to $150* per person when booking a Contiki Holidays Tour.

Airfares

London	from $249 + taxes & fees $465
Glasgow	from $349 + taxes & fees $466
Frankfurt	from $449 + taxes & fees $377
Amsterdam	from $549 + taxes & fees $361
Paris	from $549 + taxes & fees $413
Prague	from $599 + taxes & fees $459
Munich	from $649 + taxes & fees $304
Rome	from $699 + taxes & fees $358

Europe Vacations

Paris
4 Nights + Transfer + Activity
from $549 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom with buffet breakfast, arrival transfer, Illuminations of Paris tour and Paris Seinorama Tour.

Greece Island Sailing
8-Day Tour — was ~~$1299~~ now $1169 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Cyclades Islands and Mykonos. Departs Athens.

France
8-Day Tour — was ~~$1247~~ now $1197 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Giverney, Rouen, Honfleur, Deauville, Normandy Landing Beaches and American Cemetary, Bayeux and its tapestry, Mont St.Michel, St.Malo, Rennes, Tours, Orleans, and Chartres. Roundtrip Paris.

European Magic
11-Day Tour — was ~~$1689~~ now $1539 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and France. Departs Amsterdam.

Britain
11-Day Tour — was ~~$1775~~ now $1625 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Bristol, Lake District, Glasgow, Scottish Highlands, Edinburgh, and York. Roundtrip London.

Ireland
8-Day Tour — was ~~$1699~~ now $1649 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Galway, Limerick, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Cork, Waterford, and Vale of Avoca. Roundtrip Dublin.

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All-inclusive Vacations

Puerto Vallarta
7 Nights 3.5-Star
from $495
+ taxes & fees $280

Puerto Plata 7 Nights 4-Star	from $597 + taxes & fees $312
Manzanillo 7 Nights 4-Star	from $598 + taxes & fees $263
Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star	from $675 + taxes & fees $280
Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star	from $697 + taxes & fees $196
Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star	from $714 + taxes & fees $714
Punta Cana 7 Nights 4-Star	from $717 + taxes & fees $313
Los Cabos 7 Nights 5-Star	from $757 + taxes & fees $264
Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4-Star	from $797 + taxes & fees $264

Vacations

Maui Family Special
Air + 7 Nights
from $649◊◊
+ taxes & fees $127

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights 4-Star + Cirque du Soleil — from $349 + taxes & fees $114

INCLUDES accom on the Strip and tickets to a select Cirque du Soleil or other Las Vegas show. UPGRADE to 5-star accom from $14 per night.

San Francisco
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $399 + taxes & fees $106

INCLUDES accom at the Sheraton Fishermans Warf.

Anaheim Kids Fly & Stay Free◊
Air + 5 Nights 4-Star — from $539◊ + taxes & fees $250

INCLUDES complimentary shuttle from hotel to *Disneyland*. ADD 5-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* Bonus Ticket from $175 per adult.

Phoenix Air + 4 Nights 4-Star — from $599 + taxes & fees $111

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights — from $699 + taxes & fees $136

New York Weekend
Air + 4 Nights — from $897 + taxes & fees $117

ADD Top of the Rock observatory tour from $21.

Australia Explorer Package
Air + 12 Nights — from $1949 + taxes & fees $390

INCLUDES all air and 4 night accom in Sydney, Cairns & Melbourne.

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*Conditions apply. Ex: Vancouver. USA and international air only prices are per person for return travel unless otherwise stated. Domestic air only prices are per person for one-way travel unless otherwise stated. Package, cruise, tour, rail & hotel prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Prices are subject to availability at advertising deadline and are for select departure dates. Prices are accurate at time of publication, errors and omissions excepted, but are subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. ◊◊Family special is based on 2 adults and 2 children ages 2-17 travelling together. ◊Kids fly & stay free is based on 2 children (age 2-11) travelling with 2 paying adults. *Conditions apply. For full terms and conditions of offers, visit www.flightcentre.ca/campaigns/europe. ^Prices in US$. † We will beat any written quoted airfare by $1 and give you a $20 voucher for future travel. "Fly Free" offer applies only where all "Lowest Airfare Guarantee" criteria are met but Flight Centre does not beat quoted price. Additional important conditions apply. For full terms and conditions visit www.flightcentre.ca/lowestairfareguarantee-flyfree.. BC REG: #HO2790*